Critics of Erap 'exile' to GMA: Say it ain't so, Glo

STORY ON PAGE A2

INQUIRER
Order House

Texting puts RP on world map again

By Abigail L. Ho

THE FILIPINOS' penchant for texting has put the country on the international texting map once again.

A Filipino-owned applications service provider (ASP), Wolfpac Communications Inc., has been named one of

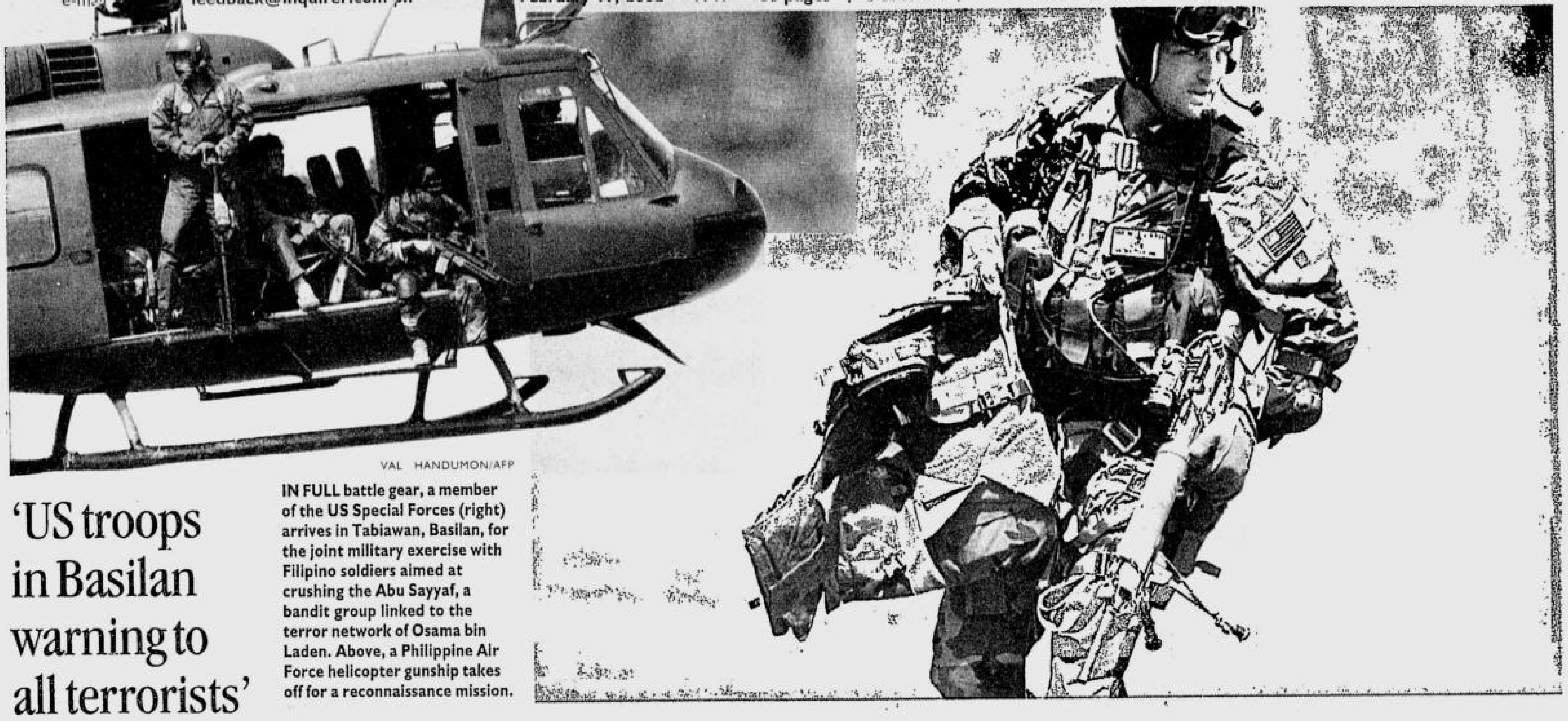
TEXTING/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLE VIEWS

TODAY IN THE

- ▨ Ombudsman Aniano Desierto strikes back
- ▨ Arnel Ignacio sings a new tune
- ▨ Beyond the struggle with Bobby Garcia

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph February 17, 2002 ★★ 66 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 71 P15 website: www.inq7.net



VAL HANDUMON/AFP

IN FULL battle gear, a member of the US Special Forces (right) arrives in Tabiawan, Basilan, for the joint military exercise with Filipino soldiers aimed at crushing the Abu Sayyaf, a bandit group linked to the terror network of Osama bin Laden. Above, a Philippine Air Force helicopter gunship takes off for a reconnaissance mission.

'US troops in Basilan warning to all terrorists'

TABIAWAN ARMY BASE, Basilan—An officer of the US Special Forces yesterday said the deployment of American troops in Basilan should be a warning to Islamic militants of America's resolve to rid the world of terrorists.

The tough message came a day after a 21-man advance team for a US Special Forces contingent arrived in Basilan for an RP-US joint military training exercise aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf, a band of Moro bandits linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terror network.

"Our presence here and our resolve speaks for itself," the American officer, who asked to be identified only as "Major Sam," said at the Philippine Army Brigade headquarters on the outskirts of Isabela, the provincial capital.

The US presence in Basilan "thus sends a strong message that . . . the US government is very serious with its efforts to rid the world of terrorism," said the major, a member of the advance American team preparing for the arrival of 160 members of the US Special Forces.

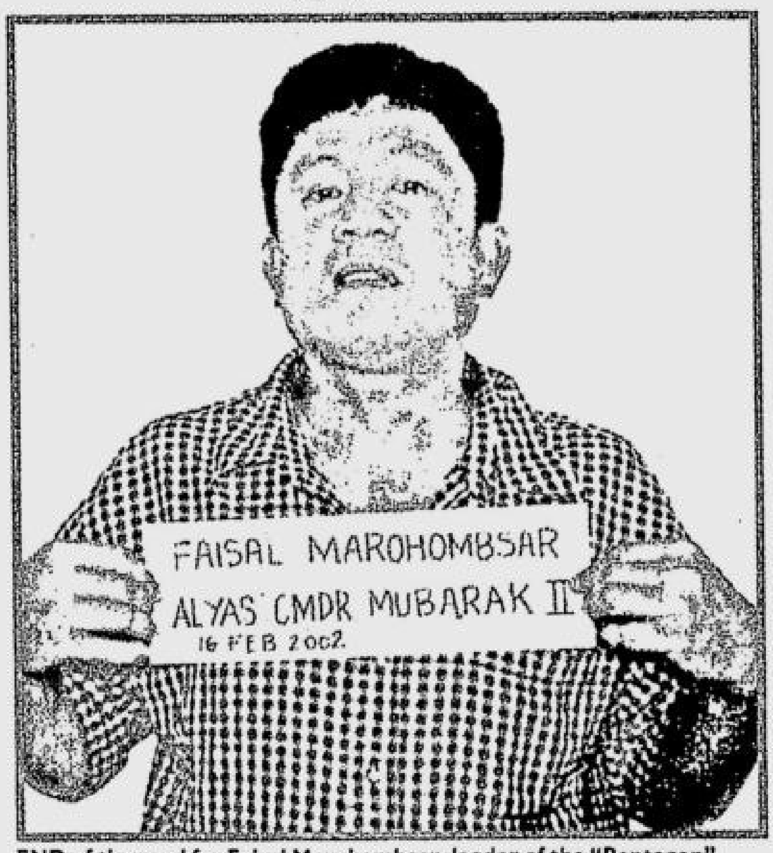
The members of the elite US unit, which will train Philippine troops in counter-terrorism and guerrila warfare, begin arriving in Basilan today.

During the Balikatan 02-1 war games expected to last six months, they will accompany

US/A18

Pentagon boss falls

Marohombsar arrested while asleep in Quiapo hotel



END of the road for Faisal Marohombsar, leader of the "Pentagon" kidnap gang in Central Mindanao. PHOTO COURTESY OF NAKTAF

By TJ Burgonio

FINALLY, a big fish.

A special task force yesterday arrested in Manila the suspected leader of the notorious Pentagon kidnap gang, a terrorist group on the US blacklist, which has victimized wealthy Filipinos and foreigners in Central Mindanao.

Faisal Marohombsar, alias Commander Mubarak II, was fast asleep when operatives of the police, military and the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force (Naktaf) barged into his room around 2:45 a.m. at the Hasmija Lodge on Elizondo Street, near the Quiapo Islamic Center.

Ten others, including Marohombsar's wife and a policeman, were invited for questioning.

A Naktaf official, who asked not to be named, said intelligence agents tailed Marohombsar and his group when they traveled from Mindanao to Manila this week. He, however, could not say why Marohombsar was in Manila.

"We have captured a very big fish," said PNP Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., the Naktaf chief.

"This is solid proof that united action among all units is the key to making kidnapping-for-ransom very dangerous for criminals," Ebdane added.

President Macapagal-Arroyo interrupted her weekly radio program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," to tell her audience the news.

"Breaking news, breaking news! Faisal Marohombsar and other Pentagon KFR members were arrested by the anti-kidnapping task force in Quiapo. So they have been taken into custody and are now under investigation," Ms Macapagal said.

"Congratulations to our policemen," she said during her program that was aired live from Dumaguete City.

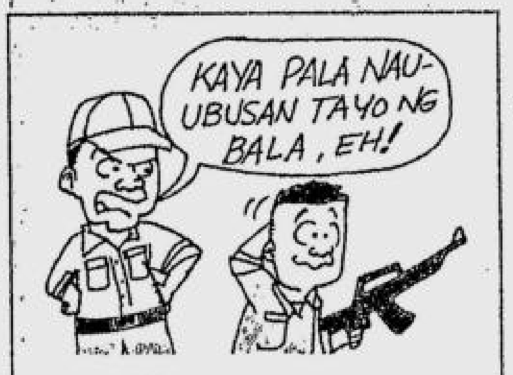
In a statement, presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Marohombsar's capture was a "joint operation" of the Naktaf, police and military.

"Its success shows . . . our security and intelligence forces have not been sleeping on their job. They are on the way toward finally crushing these brutal kidnap syndicates," Tiglao said.

Marohombsar is a former commander of the Moro National Liberation Front who surrendered to the government but turned to banditry, claiming officials reneged on promised livelihood projects for him and his followers.

He also claimed his followers

PENTAGON/A18


KAYA PALA NAUUBUSAN TAYO NG BALA, EH!

How many bullets needed to kill one NPA?

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—Question: How many bullets does it take to neutralize a New People's Army guerrilla? Answer: 1,506.

A study conducted by a military official showed that the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Southern Luzon Command expended 31,681 rounds of ammunition from January to July 2001. During the same period, the military was able to kill

HOW/A18

Jolo, Zambo explosions kill boy, hurt 49 others

By Noralyn Mustafa and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TWO grenade explosions rocked Sulu's capital town of Jolo and Zamboanga City yesterday, killing a boy and wounding at least 49 others.

The lone fatality, identified as Jose Guillermo, was killed in the blast that hit a crowded area along General Arolas Street in Jolo at about 5:45 a.m. At least 44 others were wounded, authorities said.

The second explosion came at about 2:20 p.m. inside a crowded theater in Zamboanga City that was showing "The Lord of the Rings." Five people were hurt.

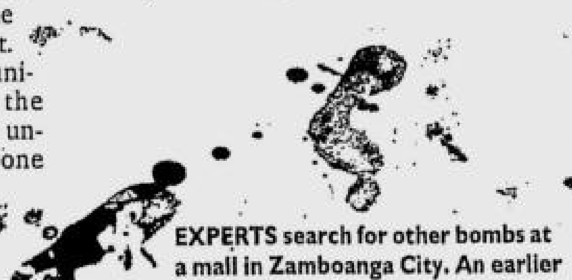
The Associated Press reported five unidentified dead in the blasts, while the Agence France Presse listed three, also unnamed. The INQUIRER confirmed only one death.

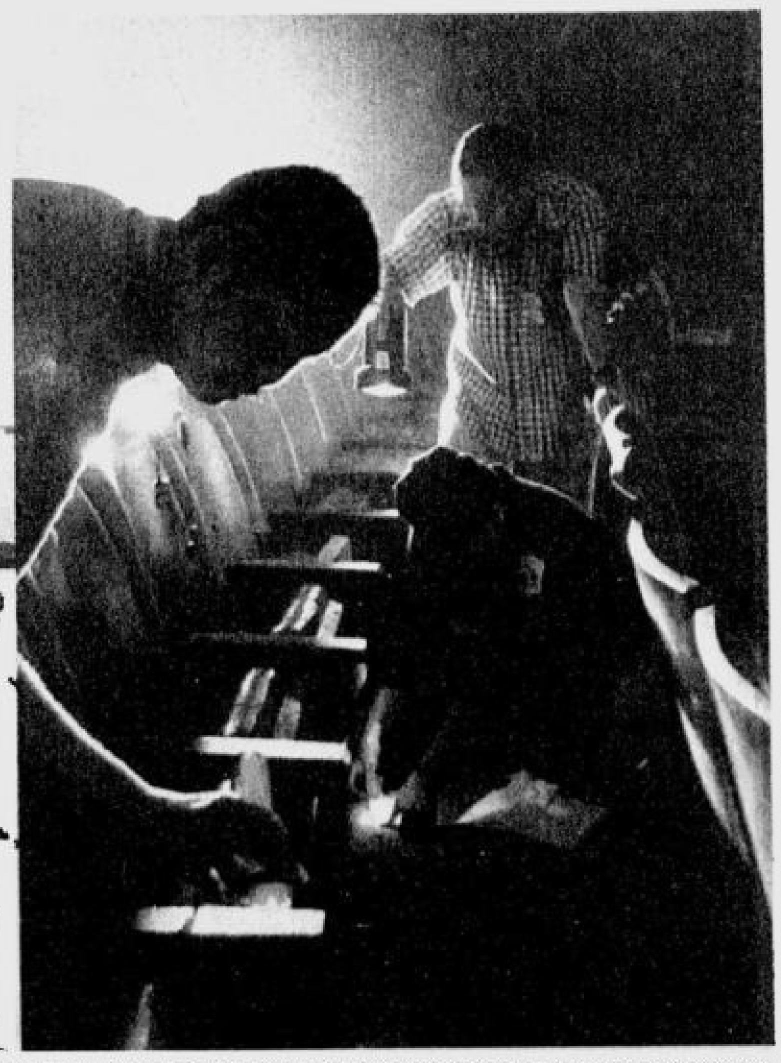
The Jolo blast, which happened between the Jolo and Eagle pharmacies, added to the tension that has gripped the town since the killing of at least 23 persons during a rally of supporters of detained rebel leader Nur Misuari on Jan. 15.

The explosion ripped off one of Guillermo's legs. He died from loss of blood while he was being treated at the Sulu Provincial Hospital.

Col. Romeo Tolentino, commanding officer of the 104th Army Brigade based in Jolo, said still unidentified men threw the grenade in the area that serves as the town's marketplace.

JOLO/A17





EXPERTS search for other bombs at a mall in Zamboanga City. An earlier explosion inside a theater left five people wounded and bloodstains on the floor (above). VAL HANDUMON

ANO BA TALAGA ATE GLO?

Second FRONT PAGE

ERAP 'EXILE'

'Say it ain't so, Glo'

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

DESPITE her angry denials, President Macapagal-Arroyo has been drawn, willy-nilly, into the controversy surrounding two congressional resolutions supporting her ousted predecessor's appeal to be allowed to seek medical treatment abroad.

If Ms Macapagal had no hand in the controversial resolutions, then she should ask her Lakas party mates to reconsider or refrain from supporting the move that was meant to influence the Sandiganbayan, said Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco.

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran dared the President to come out with a categorical statement opposing the apparently bipartisan move in Congress to support jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada's appeal to be allowed to leave for the United States to undergo knee surgery.

Cuenco, who is a ranking member of the pro-administration coalition in the House, said that members of the ruling party Lakas-NUCD comprise the bulk of the signatories to the House resolution in support of Estrada's petition.

Signatories

Some 130 congressmen, more than half the House members, have signed the resolution principally authored by Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, a known Estrada loyalist.

Nineteen of 24 senators signed the counterpart resolution in the Senate.

The House signatories include ranking officers of the chamber and the ruling party and virtually all of the House prosecutors in the aborted impeachment trial of Estrada.

"The President should take a firm stand and make this known to all. I hope she would appeal to her party mates to reconsider because I believe her appeal would be heeded," Cuenco said.

Persuasive effect

The President has bristled at suggestions that the twin resolutions had her blessings.

Cuenco said the President, as titular head of Lakas, should put her foot down on the issue because it was outright interference in another branch of government and applied a double standard of justice in favor of Estrada.

"It will really have a persuasive effect and I hope the Sandiganbayan will not be swayed," Cuenco said.

He said that if the President did not crack the whip, it would send the signal that she favors sending Estrada into exile.

This is one issue that the President should not take for granted because it involves the quest for justice against a former President booted out for plundering the nation's coffers, said Cuenco.

The Cebu solon also urged Speaker Jose de Venecia to take the moral high ground and crack the whip.

De Venecia has said that he is inclined to support the resolution but would consult the majority in a caucus within two weeks to find out if there was a national consensus on the issue.

Cuenco characterized the resolution as foolish, saying it would be demoralizing to other prisoners who are languishing in jails where even the basic necessities are wanting.

He also shot down Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda's stated reason for supporting the resolution—that dictator Ferdinand Marcos had allowed detained opposition leader Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. to undergo a heart bypass abroad.

"There is no comparison with Ninoy Aquino because Ninoy is a hero and Estrada is a heel," said Cuenco.

Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad agreed with Cuenco, saying Estrada was seeking treatment abroad only for his arthritic knees.

"Ninoy's problem was his heart ailment but this one involves the knees. We don't know if it's life-threatening," Abad said.

Cuenco said Estrada will never come back once he is allowed to leave the country.

'He'll never come back'

"He will never come back because he is bored to death here," he said.

He vowed he would "never sign this resolution, which is an insult to Filipinos."

He said he was disappointed that even the House prosecutors in the failed Senate impeachment trial had turned around and were supporting the resolution.

"My God! I'm really disappointed in what they are doing," he said.

Those who signed either "signed without knowing" or only to please those who are circulating the resolution, which Dilangalen said would be filed next week, he said.

Cuenco said he hoped the resolution would not be taken up by the rules committee.

But Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II, the committee chair, is one of the signatories.

Angara: No politics in Erap resolution

By Cynthia D. Balana
Joel B. Escovilla
and Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

OPPOSITION Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday said there was no "political color" in a Senate resolution supporting ousted ex-President Joseph Estrada's petition to be allowed to seek treatment abroad, saying it was "clearly a humanitarian gesture."

"We respect the courts. The statement neither intends to coerce nor influence the proper courts," Angara said, clarifying that it was a "statement," not a resolution.

He said it merely expressed the sentiment of 19 senators on the issue of whether the jailed ex-president should be allowed to go to the United States to seek treatment from doctors of his choice.

Congress should show its humanity and compassion for people seeking medical attention abroad on humanitarian grounds, Angara said.

The Senate "statement," authored by Senators Blas Ople and Loi Ejercito-Estrada, and signed by 19 senators, has drawn strong criticism in and out of Congress.

A similar resolution in the House was signed by more than half of the chamber's members.

Undue pressure

Senate President Franklin Drilon did not sign the Senate resolution, saying it would unduly pressure the Sandiganbayan, which is trying the plunder cases against Estrada.

Neither did Senators Joker Arroyo, Francis Pangilinan, Renato Cayetano and Senate President Pro Tempore Manuel Villar, who argued that it violated the separation-of-powers principle of the Constitution.

The Sandiganbayan has already rejected an earlier petition from Estrada's lawyers.

In Davao City, Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio Jr. said prosecutors would file a resolution before the Sandiganbayan on Monday asking the court to deny Estrada's request to be allowed to seek treatment abroad.

Gervacio issued the statement in reaction to the Senate-House twin resolutions.

"This will trivialize the strictness of the provisions of the plunder case against Estrada. It's a non-bailable offense and the public might get angry if we let him leave and he won't come back anymore," Gervacio said.

He said that opposing foreign treatment for Estrada appears to be the consensus of the justices and prosecutors handling the plunder case although "nothing is on paper yet."

Gervacio said he understood the legislators' move as characteristic of Filipinos who are forgiving by nature.

But that does not mean that the Ombudsman's office would allow it, he said.

He said even the existence of an extradition treaty between the Philippines and the US would not convince the Ombudsman.

Pleasing Erap

"Why take the chance to extradite a fugitive when we have the power not to let that happen?" he said.

Although he said he would not consider the move of the senators and the congressmen as an act of intervention, Gervasio said it was dangerously close to exerting influence on the court.

He said Estrada's lawyers would use the twin resolutions for their own ends.

In the House, Palawan Rep. Abraham Mitra, one of the eight authors of the House resolution, said Estrada was "pleased" with the developments in Congress.

"I told him, this is for you and he thanked us. He is happy about it," said Mitra.

He said the 19 members of the House minority had been scheduled to see the jailed leader last week to give him "feedback" on the resolution but the meeting did not materialize.

"We're going to see him next week," Mitra said.

Though the House resolution had said Estrada needed to have knee surgery in the US, Mitra offered a different reason.

"I think he needs a breath of fresh air. We should let him take a breather and then he will come back," he said.

This, he said, would give a "deeper meaning" to political reconciliation and unity.

"Who knows, after this, Estrada will come around and may even support President Macapagal-Arroyo," he said. ***With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana***

WEAR AND TEAR DISEASE

What ails Erap? A bad case of OA

By Jose S. Pujalte Jr., M.D.
Contributor

> *Out, alas! she's cold;*
> *Her blood is settled, and her joints are stiff.*
> —William Shakespeare
> Romeo and Juliet (1595), act 4, sc. 5, l. 25

DOCTORS call it "OA," and it stands not for over-acting but for osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis is painful because the cartilage (the white, smooth and slippery end of a bone) is worn out, much like a tire or a shoe.

This is why OA is also known as the "wear and tear" disease. When bone ends begin grinding into each other, the joint creaks and hurts.

It is the most common joint disease and it usually affects the weight-bearing knees and hips. Overused parts like the neck, the back and the small joints of the hand can get arthritis, too.

Osteoarthritis is the leading cause of disability in people over 65.

The pain of degenerative arthritis is deep, develops slowly, and is aggravated with the use of the affected bone.

The joint is usually stiff in the morning and after sitting. Joint motion is limited.

The joint itself enlarges and deforms over time making old people's knees look knobby and their hands bulbous.

Arthritic patients can even feel and hear their joints crackle.

Risk factors

A good doctor will take a thorough history. He will account for the risk factors in osteoarthritis. These include work and activity, including sports—all of which may cause joint damage over time. He will also investigate past injury or infection of the painful joint.

Then there is the matter of heredity. You may get arthritis if it runs in the family.

Diagnosis

Arthritic joints look bad.

Bad knees make the patient bow-legged because the knees have collapsed.

Bad hips (and knees) make the patient limp because it is painful to put weight on worn out joints. X-rays will in fact reveal the loss of joint space—a sign that the cartilage has eroded.

Sometimes the doctor may want to take some fluid out of the joint just to make sure that the pain is not coming from infection or inflammation.

The doctor will recommend weight loss if you are obese. Canes, collars, knee supports all help unload the joint. At home, it helps to apply heat on affected joints through hot, moist towels or infrared lamps. Physical therapy aims to tone muscles moving joints and to help regain joint motion. Pain and inflammation may require medication such as acetaminophen and the NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) like mefenamic acid, diclofenac, and ibuprofen. The newest drugs for arthritis are the COX-2 inhibitors (rofecoxib and = celecoxib). These can attack pain without causing stomach ulcers.

Surgery

The problem with osteoarthritis is that it is a progressive disease.

Cartilage regeneration is expensive and experimental.

To date, the treatment for shot joints is surgery. The doctor will offer fusion or replacement.

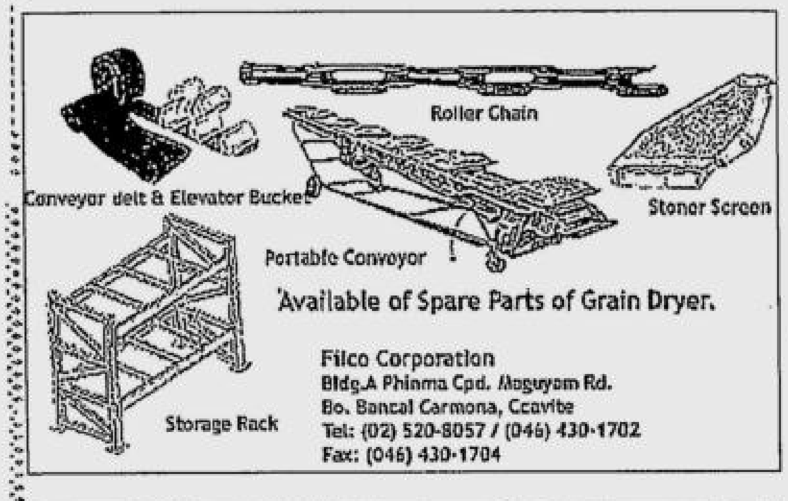
In joint fusion, the bone ends are pieced together on the premise that if there is no motion, there won't be any pain.

In joint replacement, the bone ends are removed and replaced with a new joint made out of metal and plastic. When properly done, an artificial hip or knee may last 15 to 20 years.

Over-acting osteoarthritis is at best difficult. That's pain and misery 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Even actors need a break.

(Editor's note: Dr. Pujalte is an orthopedic surgeon at the Philippine Orthopedic Center.)



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WAR VS TERROR

George W. Bush calls, thanks Gloria

WASHINGTON—United States President George W. Bush told President Macapagal-Arroyo by telephone last Friday that the US was grateful for her cooperation in the war on terrorism, the White House said.

"He expressed his appreciation for President Macapagal-Arroyo's continued leadership in support of the war against terrorism," Bush spokesperson Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"He specifically noted how President Macapagal-Arroyo has made every effort to secure the safe release of two Americans who have been held hostage in the southern Philippines," the spokesperson said.

Kansas-born Christian missionaries Martin and Gracia Bumham have been held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf extremist group since May.

"President (Bush) also emphasized his determination to see our current training mission to a successful conclusion," said Fleischer, referring to four months of joint exercises that open next week in the largest US military deployment abroad since the Afghan campaign started.

In Malacañang, Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Bush had called to ask regarding "complaints" about the presence of US forces here.

Tiglao said Bush "emphasized to the President that he would want the (military) cooperation to be very helpful to the Philippines."

What he said Bush meant was that the US chief of state did not want the exercises to become any kind of problem for the Philippines.

He said Ms Macapagal was "happy" that Bush took the time to call her.

The two leaders reportedly did not go into specific incidents, such as the protest rallies at the US Embassy and the recent fiasco over the US soldiers' public display of weapons in Zamboanga.

Neither did they delve into Bush's forthcoming trip to Japan, South Korea and China this week.

Malacañang was reportedly dismayed that Bush could not find the time to drop by Manila.

Tiglao described the 10-minute call as the "friendly keep-in-touch kind."

"Apparently Mr. Bush would want the relationship between the Philippines and the US to be closer," he said.

Meanwhile, Ms Macapagal has given an assurance to former Sen. Wigberto Tañada that she would not allow the US to set up permanent military bases in the country again.

Tañada, who was an administration candidate for senator in the May elections, has claimed that the US wants to reclaim its former bases through the proposed Military Logistics and Support Agreement (MLSA).

"The President would like to emphasize that she has not, and will not allow the setting up of permanent (US) military bases in the country, which is prohibited by the Constitution unless permitted by a treaty," Tiglao said. *AFP with a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Opposition members will speak freely on Balikatan

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Edgardo Angara yesterday said the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino has decided to allow its members to speak freely on the Balikatan exercises issue.

Angara, LDP president, said each member must "speak from the beat of his heart and the pull of his conscience" so that the people would know how they stand on the issue of the joint RP-US military exercises.

"This is one issue in which every voice should be heard. There are voices of assent and dissent, pro and contra. The diversity will enrich discussion and debate," said Angara.

He said that he was in favor of training and logistical support for Filipino soldiers fighting the Abu Sayyaf Group in Mindanao.

But he said the government should not even attempt to demolish the dissenting voices on the issue.

"On the presence of American troops here and the overall RP-military relations, the Macapagal administration should not be more popish than the pope," Angara said.

Angara lamented that several allies of the Macapagal administration has been on an irresponsible attack mode against critics of the Balikatan exercises.

"To say that our esteemed nationalists are living on a time warp and to question their love of country reflect the siege and partisan mentality of several administration people," Angara said.

Angara hit the tendency of Macapagal's allies to belittle the "well-meaning critics" speak of "intolerance and bigotry."

He stressed that there should be an open and non-emotional discussion of issues.

Angara said that Macapagal's people should win over the critics on the strength and the power of superior ideas, not on name-calling and irresponsible criticism.

296 senior police officers promoted

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has promoted some 296 Philippine National Police superintendents to the next higher rank of police senior superintendents, the equivalent of full colonel, effective Feb. 13, a press statement from Malacañang said yesterday.

The promotions had been endorsed by Interior Secretary Jose Lina and Civil Service Commission chair Karina David, and recommended by PNP chief Leandro Mendoza.

Mendoza said the promotions would further boost morale in the 113,000-strong police organization.

"Time and again, the President has demonstrated her firm resolve to help the PNP become a professional, highly motivated and well-disciplined police organization with the grant of benefits unprecedented in the history of the PNP," he said.

Aside from the new promotions, Mendoza said that by July 1, the salary adjustment of uniformed police personnel, representing the third tranche of the P2.1-billion salary upgrading program, would be fully implemented.

"Our policemen will no longer be second-class citizens as their salaries will now be at par with those of teachers as provided by law," he said.

The Palace statement cited other "landmark interventions" by Ms Macapagal such as ordering the release of P4.674 billion for terminal leaves, retirement gratuities and early retirement packages for 10,088 police officers.

"On top of that, the

remaining 2,029 retirees will be given their pensions worth P1.068 billion, after waiting for more than three to five years," Mendoza said.

He said some 4,000 new policemen would be coming on board this year, which would greatly improve the police-to-population ratio of one cop for every 1,422 Filipinos.

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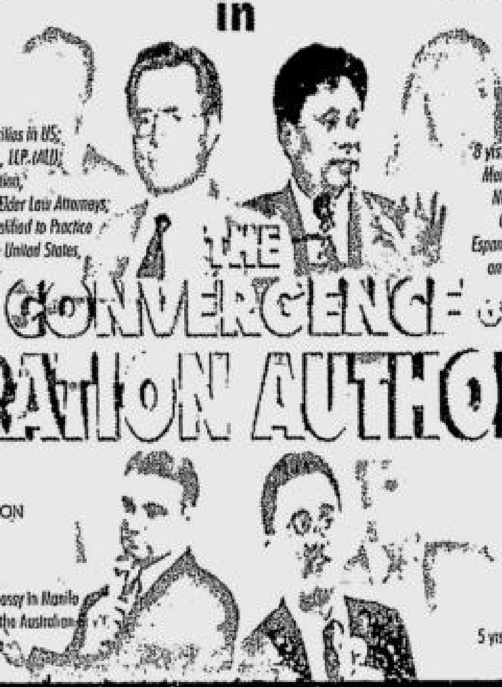

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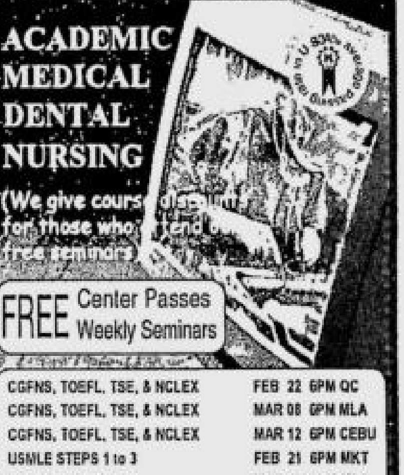

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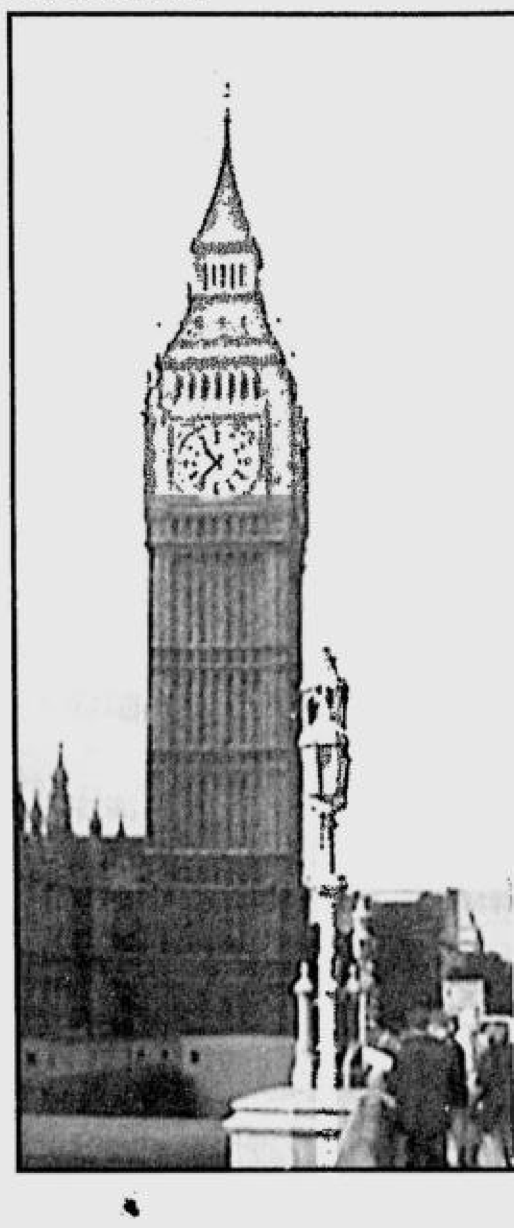

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PMA honors Singaporean general

By Martin P. Marfil

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—The Philippine Military Academy yesterday honored one of its own, a Singaporean general who graduated in 1977 and hadn't been back to the institution since.

Honored with a testimonial parade was Brig. Gen. Lim Kah Kee, who had graduated at the top of his class in academics.

"This is the first time I've been back after 25 years. It's a wonderful feeling. It makes me nostalgic and it is wonderful to see that there have been a lot of changes in the curriculum," Lim said.

In Singapore, "I'm a division commander. Our Army chief is a two-star general," he said. In the Philippines, most of his classmates are colonels.

Lim's visit coincided with the start of the controversial joint military campaign of Philippine and United States forces against the Abu Sayyaf terrorist group.

Filipino troops have also come under heavy criticism, especially with their failure to subdue the Abu Sayyaf and since it appears the Americans will call the shots in the anti-terror campaign.

Asked to comment on the criticism, Lim said he had not heard of them.

"What I do know is that a lot of PMA graduates are actually heroes in the fight against terrorism," he said.

"They die, they sacrifice their lives for the country and I think that is one trait (of a PMAer). It speaks very well of the PMA graduates," he said.

Asked to comment on issues pitting PMAer against PMAer, like Col. Victor Corpus and Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Lim begged off saying he knew nothing about the issues.

"One thing I can tell you is that my class is very united and we have this camaraderie, esprit de corps," Lim said.

Lim, who entered the PMA when he was 18, said he chose the academy because he didn't like Western food.

"Primarily, I hate Western food. I like Asian food. (The) Philippines is an Asian country and not too far from Singapore," he said, to explain why he did not go to West Point.

Four years later, he graduated at the top of his class in academics. He was also the first in his class to make general.

Aside from Lim, others who were honored were Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan and Defense Press Corps president Joel Egco.

Today, the official homecoming, other graduates like Army chief Lt. Gen. Jaime de los Santos and Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu will be named Cavalier awardees for 2002.

They will be missing their commander-in-chief and honorary "mistah" of Class '78, however, President Macapagal-Arroyo who has decided to skip today's rites.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal did not want to appear to be trying too hard to woo the military. ***With Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Kuratong slay: Politics, NPA, revenge eyed

By Jerome Aning

POLITICS or revenge may have been the motives for the killing last Friday of Misamis Occidental provincial board member Renato Parojinog, the former leader of the dreaded Kuratong Baleleng criminal gang, police said yesterday.

Western Police District director Nicolas Pasinos Jr. told reporters he has already sent a request to the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Ozamiz City to check whether Parojinog had any political or business enemies who may have wanted him eliminated.

The police are also looking into the possibility that the communist New People's Army may have been involved, as the Kuratong Baleleng, which Parojinog's father founded in the 1980s, had started out as a vigilante group fighting communist rebels in northern Mindanao.

Emmanuel Roa, one of Parojinog's bodyguards who is a brother of journalist Merpu Roa, said Parojinog had received several death threats and that his house had once been bombed allegedly by political enemies.

GRAFT, PLUNDER IN ILOCOS

Chavit told to answer raps

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Leoncio Balbin Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has found probable cause to order a preliminary investigation into allegations "Juetengate" whistleblower Luis "Chavit" Singson failed to account for some P1.2 billion in fund disbursements when he was governor of Ilocos Sur, as well as other charges.

Lawyer Pelagio Apostol, director of the Ombudsman Evaluation and Preliminary Investigation Bureau (EPIB), has subpoenaed Singson and other provincial government officials to answer the charges.

"I signed the subpoena last week after the evaluation panel recommended a formal inquiry into the allegations," Apostol said.

Singson and the other respondents were given 10 days to file their counter-affidavits.

Singson has flatly denied the allegations, saying the charges were politically motivated.

The Save Ilocos Sur Alliance has filed three graft and one plunder cases against Singson and the other Ilocos Sur officials.

Among Singson's co-accused are Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, general service officer Ernie Mendoza, provincial administrator Ma. Victoria Cu, provincial budget officer Erlita Arce and provincial treasurer Antonio Gundran.

"Our efforts (to seek) justice for the people of Ilocos Sur are gaining ground," lawyer Estelita Cordero, Sisa legal counsel, told the INQUIRER.

Order welcomed

Singson welcomed the Ombudsman's order, saying this would give him and his co-accused the opportunity to refute Sisa's charges.

"I am happy that we will be given the opportunity to answer the charges leveled against us," Singson said in an interview over radio station dwRS in Vigan on Saturday.

On Nov. 21, Sisa charged Singson with the alleged ghost purchase of a P9.5-million backhoe. On Nov. 26, he was charged with purchasing in 1998 an allegedly overpriced parcel of land at a cost of P26 million.

The lot, which was classified as agricultural, cost only P2.1 million, according to Sisa.

On Dec. 6, Sisa filed a third complaint for graft for the alleged technical malversation of a P30-million fund from the province' share of tobacco excise taxes.

In the latest complaint, for plunder, Sisa president Nestor Segismundo, secretary general David Orca and Dr. Liborio Arca charged Singson, Cu, Arce and Gundran with systematically misusing public funds.

"(They) entered into contracts and released public funds despite the absence of documentation to benefit persons who would otherwise have been disqualified by reason of conflict of interest," Sisa said in an eight-page complaint.

Under the law, plunder is committed by a government official who uses his position to amass—through a series of overt or criminal acts—wealth in the amount of at least P50 million.

Failed to liquidate

Sisa alleged that Singson and the other provincial officials failed to liquidate P596.8 million of the P900.9 million in funds questioned by the Commission on Audit. This prompted the COA to "suspend transactions relative thereto."

"Of the aforementioned P900.9 million, which was subject to suspension by the COA, P146.9 million was for calendar year 2000 alone," Sisa said.

Despite the "suspension," Singson was able to justify or settle with sufficient documentation transactions in the amount of P304 million, leaving P596.8 million without acceptable supporting documents, Sisa claimed.

Aside from the P596.8 million in unliquidated funds, Sisa said Singson et al. also failed to settle P153.6 in disallowed reimbursements, P149.2 million in unrecorded disbursements, and P360 million, which was supposed to go toward the purchase of a tobacco flue-curing barn and other equipment.

The unliquidated or unsettled accounts reached as high P1.2 billion, according to Sisa's computations.

Apostol explained, however, that the finding of probable cause pertained only to the preliminary investigation.

Probable cause

"It does not mean there is probable cause to file charges in court. For that, we need sufficient probable cause or what we call prima facie evidence," he said.

He said the charges were filed late last year but the subpoena was issued only this month after several original panel members had inhibited themselves from the case.

Singson was granted immunity from prosecution by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto after he agreed to testify against former President Joseph Estrada in connection with the graft and plunder cases against the deposed leader.

The immunity covers only the cases involving Estrada and not any others the ex-governor might face on his own.

Singson said in a statement the complainants were on a fishing expedition to besmirch his reputation.

He said the charges were backed up with "fabricated documents and papers being fed to the media."

He said he intends to sue the complaints for moral and exemplary damages. "Malicious prosecution should not be tolerated in our society," he added.

Singson served as provincial governor for three consecutive terms since 1992 until he stepped down on June 30 last year. In October 2000, he went public on what he knew of Estrada's alleged illegal activities, an act that eventual led to the president's fall from power.

Camp Pag-ibig for special kids

SOME 1,500 special children are participating in the two-day "Camp Pag-ibig 2002" in Balara Filters, Quezon City, the highlight of the observance of National Mental Retardation Week, Feb. 14-18. The event ends today, according to camp directress Tess Mariano, Quezon City's Social Services Development chief, and Quezon City Council president pro tempore and P.A.R. vice president Jorge L. Banal.

The sponsoring entities which are being coordinated by the Quezon City "Capitol" Jaycees headed by Jorge "Bolet" Banal, are the Quezon City government, with Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. as honorary Camp director; the Philippine Association for the Retarded under president Erlinda Lolarga; the Manila Water Co., under Tony Aquino, president; the Department of Education, represented by Tita Inciong; and with special support from the 65th Army Reserve Command.

A customary annual activity for "special children," Camp Pag-ibig is designed to reinforce the social interaction skills of the mentally and physically handicapped children as they participate in the Day Camp's athletic, sports, cultural and social activities.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

LABOR LAW (LABOR RELATIONS LAW)—Loss of confidence—Loss of confidence applies only to cases involving employees who occupy positions of trust and confidence, or those situations where the employee is routinely charged with the care and custody of the employer's money or property. It must be shown, or the employer must have reasonable ground to believe, if not entertain, the moral conviction that the employee concerned is responsible for the misconduct or infraction and that nature of his participation therein rendered him absolutely unworthy of the trust and confidence demanded by his position. To be a valid ground for dismissal, the loss of confidence must be based on a willful breach of trust and founded on clearly established or proven facts. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Kapunan, First Division, Concorde Hotel v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 144089, August 9, 2001]

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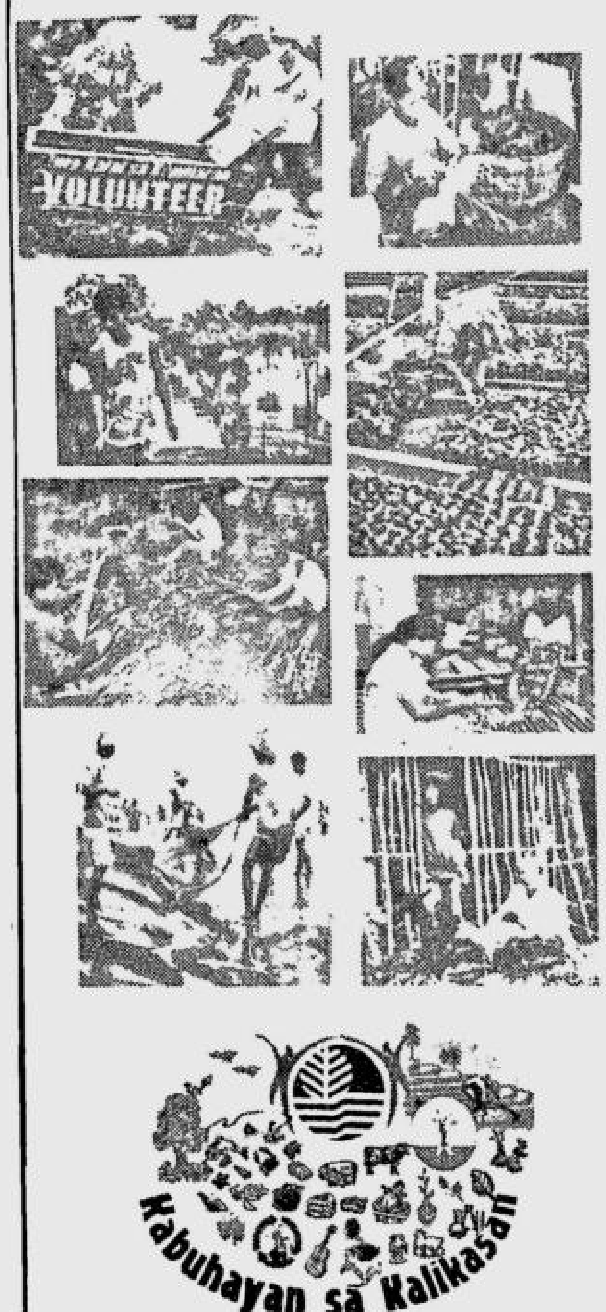

Sa pagdiriwang ng EDSA 2, ang Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) ay maghahandog ng isang open house o *Kabuhayan sa Kalikasan* para sa mga proyektong pangkabuhayan.

Ituturo dito ang mga paraan kung paano tayo makapag-uumpisa ng sariling negosyo mula sa kalikasan.

Tayo na at makiisa sa gagawing open house sa ika-18 ng Pebrero 2002, mula 10:00 ng umaga hanggang 5:00 ng hapon sa Quezon Memorial Circle, Quezon City.

Kabuhayan sa Kalikasan

"Magkaisa at magtulungan
tayong lahat upang labanan ang kahirapan"

- Sec. Heherson T. Alvarez

Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Soldiers accused of abuses in pursuit of Korean's captors

PALEMBANG, Sultan Kudarat—A United Nations peace volunteer has accused the military of abuses in the manhunt operation against the kidnappers of Korean national Jae Keonyoon and General Santos hotelier Carlos Belonio.

Bai Khan Nicolas Drah of the Philippine-UN Peace and Development Advocate stationed here said soldiers belonging to the Army's 27th Infantry Battalion and 11th Special Forces illegally searched and looted the houses of some residents in Barangays Butril, Kabuling and Lebua.

Several residents have also told the INQUIRER that soldiers, who established outposts along the national highway leading to this town, apprehended and impounded several motorcycles.

However, Col. Pedrito Magsino, commander of the Army's 601st Army Infantry Brigade, belied the claims.

The house-to-house search, Drah said, was carried out a few days after the abduction without a corresponding search warrant from the court.

Drah said he has no official record yet as to the exact amount of personal belongings and money looted, as well the total number of animals, particularly chicken, lost during the search.

But, she said, she was documenting the alleged abuses committed by the government operatives for submission to their office.

Civilians' protectors

"Supposedly, the military are the protectors of the civilians. Not because we are Muslims, we tolerate or coddle those responsible for the kidnapping incident.

They (military) should not treat us with suspicion. Instead of getting help from Muslim civilians, they are creating lots of enemies," Drah said.

Magsino clarified that there was no need for the military to secure search warrants as what his men did was part of the hot pursuit operation against the kidnappers.

He said some people, who are apparently linked to the kidnap suspects, are out to discredit the military, so that the manhunt operation would fail.

Col. Nardo Balboa, spokesperson of 601st Brigade justified the seizure of the single motorcycles, claiming it was part of the manhunt operation.

Couriers

"Couriers use motorcycles in bringing information to the kidnappers," Balboa told the INQUIRER.

He said that most, if not all of the apprehended motorcycles were either not registered with the LTO or the one driving it had no driver's license.

In Cotabato City, Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza said the abduction of Jae and Belonio was not a case of a kidnap for ransom.

Dureza said the two were seized after they refused to release the P10 million as initial fund for a cobalt metal hunting in Palembang town.

No ransom demand

"It's not a kidnap for ransom case because the kidnappers did not raise any ransom demand," Dureza told Radio dxMS.

Paul Malanta, one of those freed by the kidnappers, supported Dureza's view.

He said there was previous agreement between Jae and "Commander Tigre" of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front to meet in Barangay Butril, but when they arrived there, a certain Abo Abdul instead met them.

Malanta said Abdul later introduced the Korean and his entourage to another MILF officer Ismael Saafar, alias Commander Jakiri.

Jakiri said the Korean and his group would be allowed to survey the area, reportedly rich in nickel babbits if they can give P10 million in cash.

Jakiri, who was under instruction by Commander Tigre, also informed the visitors that the Korean should be temporarily placed under their custody while waiting for the P10 million down payment.

Malanta said Jae rejected the offer and immediately told Belonio to drive back home to General Santos.

But upon reaching Barangay Malisbong, heavily armed men, who were positioned near a bridge, opened fire, forcing them to stop.

Malanta said the armed men then dragged Jae and Belonio toward a forested area. ***Aquiles Z. Zonio, Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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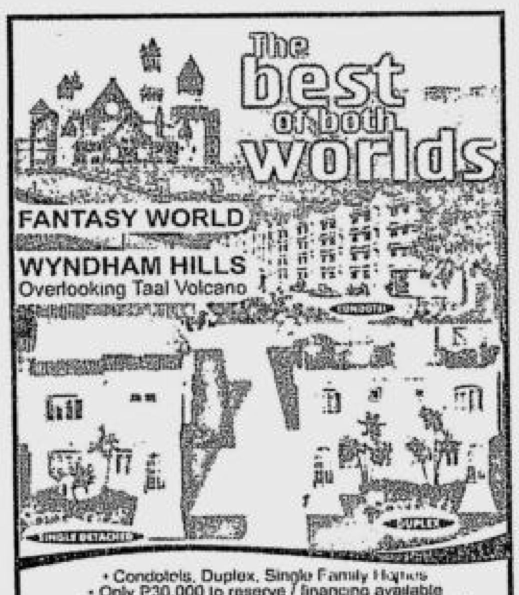

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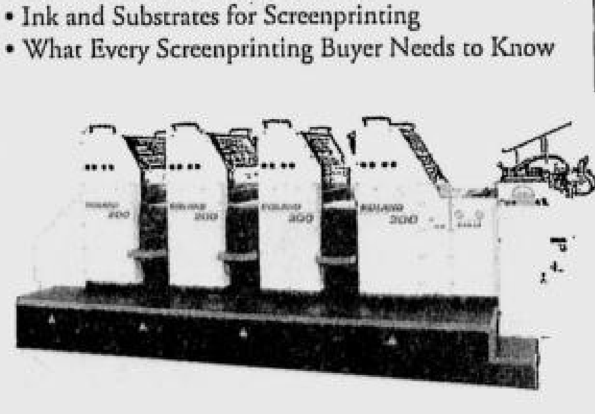

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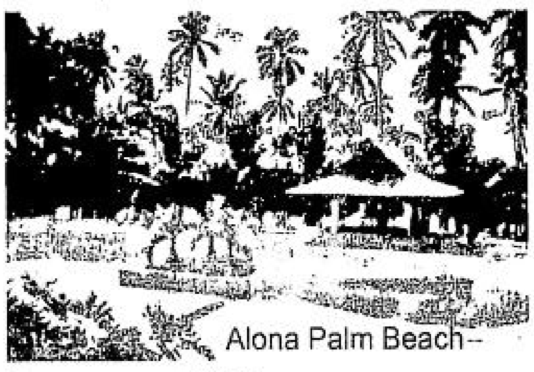

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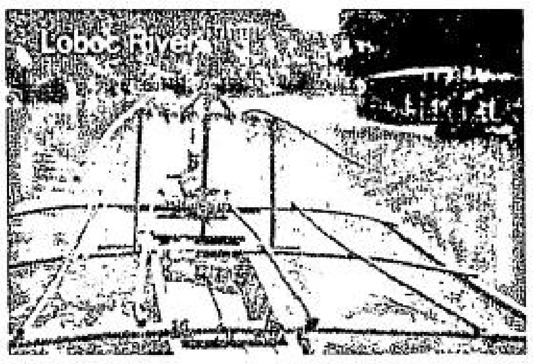

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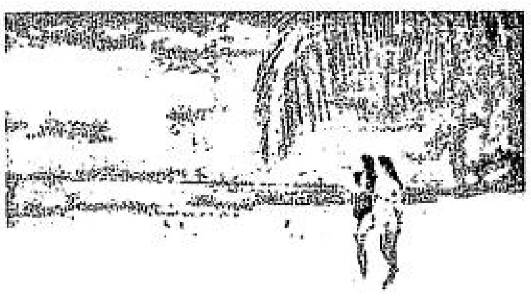

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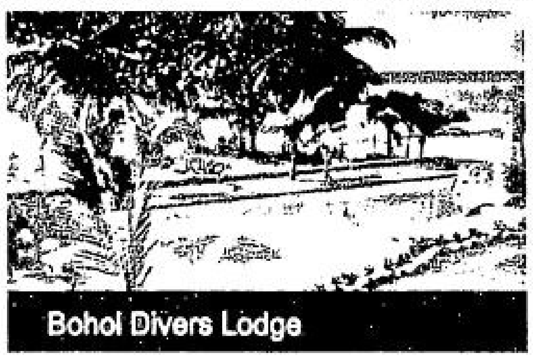

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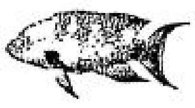

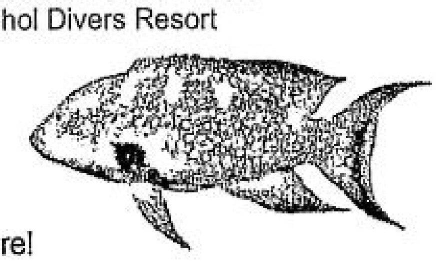

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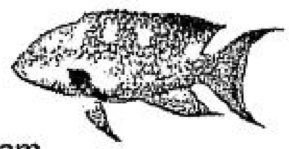

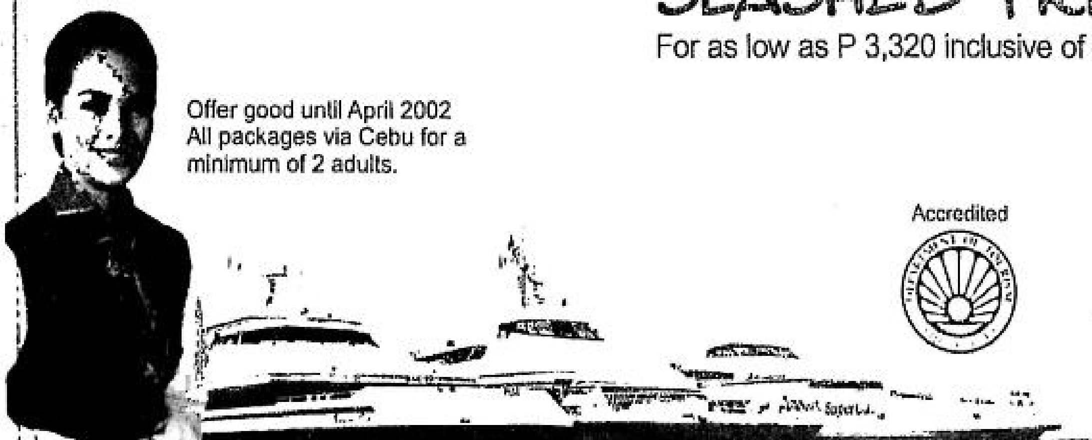

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Maker says Viagra is not so dangerous

By Armand N. Nocum

THE INTERNATIONAL drug company Pfizer has assured that the anti-impotence drug Viagra is safe for most people with heart disease.

In a statement, the company said an independent study on the effect of Viagra showed that the "drug is unlikely to cause problems in heart patients who do not have severe diseases and are not taking nitrate drugs."

The company was reacting to a warning from Dr. Ludgerio Torres, medical director of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC), who warned old romantics doing "some dirty old man tricks" to be careful in the use of Viagra during the recent Valentine's Day.

"Those with coronary heart disease cannot take Viagra, that is contra-indicated, it will force your blood pressure to drop, you will collapse and fall accidentally. That will spoil your plans (for Valentine)," he said.

Pfizer admitted, though, that in 1999, the American Heart Association and American College of Cardiology did warn against the use of Viagra by an estimated 5.5 million US heart patients taking nitrates for angina, or chest pain, because of the risk of a dangerous drop in blood pressure.

The organizations also recommended caution in prescribing Viagra for patients whose heart disease includes ischemia, or insufficient oxygen to the heart.

But Pfizer said a study conducted through grants of the Mayo Foundation and the American Heart Association showed that the use of Viagra "did not increase the risk of ischemia," or "worsen it."

Customs exec suspended for faking school records

By Armand Nocum

A RANKING customs bureau official accused of faking his scholastic records to get into government service has been slapped a 90-day suspension by the Sandiganbayan.

Customs Enforcement and Security Service Director Virgilio Manalo Danao now faces graft charges at the Ombudsman's office.

Sandiganbayan First Division Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena cited section 13 of Republic Act No. 3019, which mandates the suspension from office of a public officer charged with "fraud upon government or public funds or property."

Under the law, officials against whom a criminal complaint has been filed involving fraud in government, "whether as simple or complex offense and in whatever stage of execution and mode of participation, is pending in court," must be suspended from office.

Associate Justices Catalino Castaneda Jr. and Gregory Ong concurred in the suspension order issued on Feb. 8.

The Ombudsman earlier ordered Danao dismissed for "misrepresenting himself" with his spurious academic records.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto said Danao's act "(constituted) the administrative offense of dishonesty."

Last October, Danao filed a motion for reconsideration on which the Ombudsman has yet to rule.

The case against Danao was filed by a former subordinate, special agent Roseller Roxas, in April 2000.

When he first joined the bureau, Danao presented records showing that he graduated in 1972 from the Manila Central University, with a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Roxas obtained a certification from the school, showing that no BSBA graduate by the name of Virgilio Manalo Danao was in its roster.

Danao had used his purported school records to secure successive promotions from customs police captain in 1978 to his present post.

Customs personnel hailed the Sandiganbayan decision, saying it indicated that there was "justice and honesty in the judiciary."

They had earlier raised fears that Danao's being a ranking member of the politically influential Iglesia ni Cristo sect would allow him to get away with his alleged crime.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 17, 2002
1st Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Yahweh God formed Man, dust drawn from the clay, and breathed into his nostrils a breath of life and Man became alive with breath. God planted a garden in Eden in the east and there he placed Man whom he had created. Yahweh God caused to grow from the ground every kind of tree that is pleasing to see and good to eat, also the tree of Life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Now the serpent was the most crafty of all the wild creatures that Yahweh God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say: You must not eat from any tree in the garden?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees in the garden, but of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden God said: You must not eat, and you must not touch it or you will die." The serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, but God knows that the day you eat it, your eyes will be opened and you will be like gods, knowing good and evil."

The woman saw that the fruit was good to eat, and pleasant to the eyes, and ideal for gaining knowledge. She took its fruit and ate it and gave some to her husband who was with her. He ate it. Then their eyes were opened and both of them knew they were naked. So they sewed leaves of a fig tree together and made themselves loincloths.

2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-19
(or Rom 5:12, 17-19)

Brothers and sisters, sin entered the world through one man and through sin, death, and later on death spread to all humankind, because all sinned. As long as there was no law, they could not speak of disobedience, but sin was already in the world. This is why from Adam to Moses death reigned among them, although their sin was not disobedience as in Adam's case—this was not the true Adam, but foretold the other who was to come.

Such has been the fall, but God's gift goes far beyond. Multitudes die because of the fault of one man, but how much more does the grace of God spread when the gift he granted reaches the multitudes, from this unique man Jesus Christ. The gift of God more than compensated for sin. The disobedience that brought condemnation was of one sinner, whereas the grace of God brings forgiveness to a world of sinners. If death reigned through the disobedience of one and only one person, how much more will there be a reign of life for those who receive the grace and the gift of true righteousness through the one person, Jesus Christ.

Just as one transgression brought sentence of death to all, so, too, one rehabilitation brought pardon and life to all; and as the disobedience of only one made many sinners, so the obedience of one person allowed a multitude to be made just and holy.

Gospel: Mt 4:1-11

At that time, the Spirit led Jesus into the desert that he be put to the test by the devil. After spending forty days and nights without food, Jesus was hungry.

Then the devil came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, order these stones to turn into bread." But Jesus answered, "Scripture says: one does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city, set him on the highest wall of the temple, and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for scripture says, God has given orders to his angels about you. Their hands will hold you up lest you hurt your foot against a stone." Jesus answered, "But scripture also says: You shall not put to the test the Lord your God."

Then the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the nations of the world in all their greatness and splendor. And he said, "All this I will give you, if you kneel and worship me." Then Jesus answered, "Be off, Satan! Scripture says: worship the Lord your God and serve him alone."

Then the devil left him, and angels came to serve him.

Commentary

The desert in modern life is separation from our usual diversions and ways of escaping. "We do not live on bread alone," says Jesus. If I fasted from some of my daily bread of TV, radio, aimless reading, phone calls or whatever, if I let the emptiness be there and stayed with it, would I find some other thing to live on? To enter the desert is to accept that there is no quick fix solution, no wonder-fruit that will transform my life: the right clothes, the super-vitamins, the self-discovery seminar, the not-to-be-missed book. God has no gimmicks to offer; all has been given and said in Jesus. The desert, as Jesus found, is a difficult place but strengthening for those who sit it out. To remove some of my props gives me the opportunity to drink from deeper sources of motivation, and to discover the prayer I need to pray.

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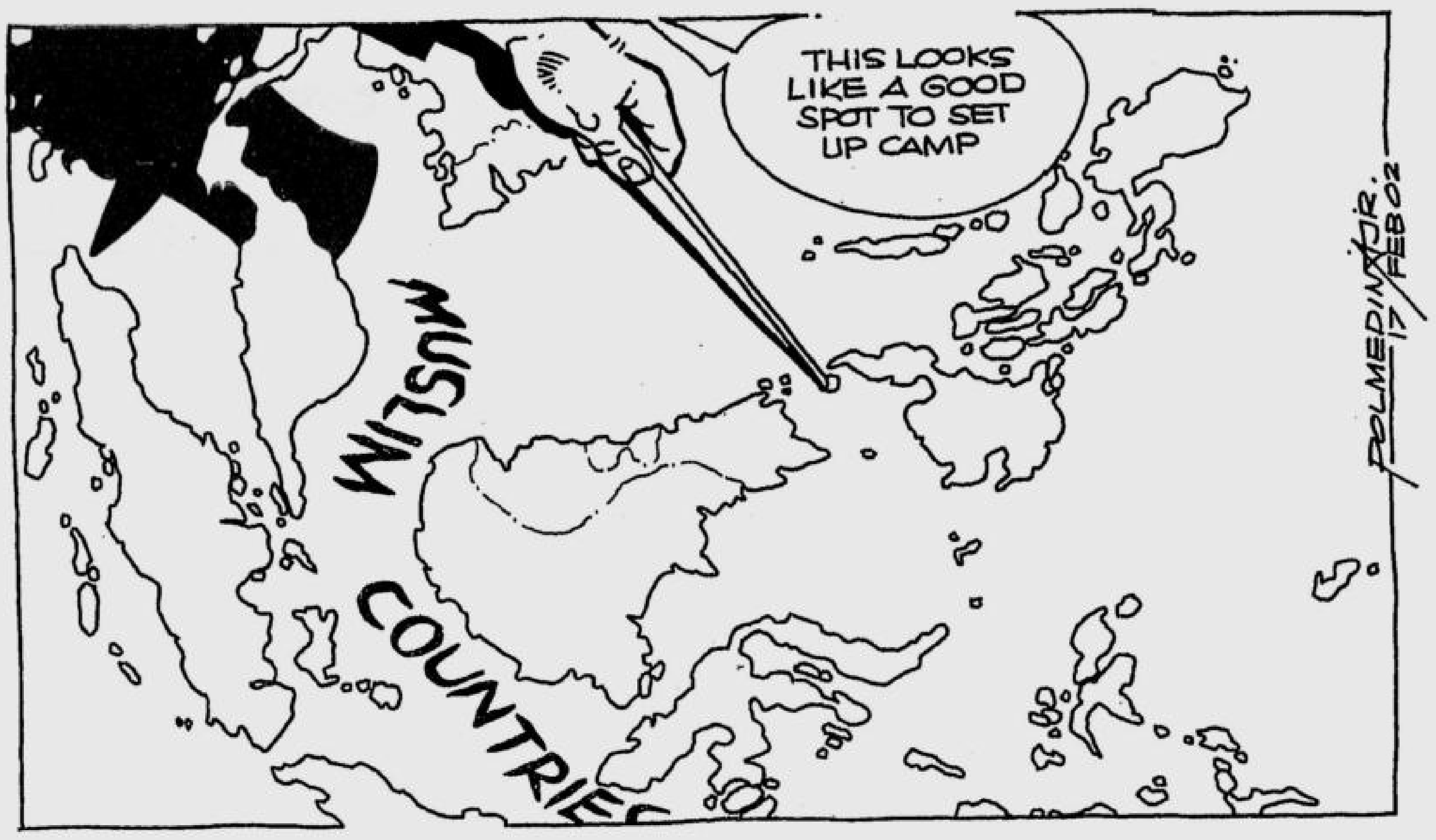


Knee-jerk politics

EDITORIAL

THE TWIN congressional resolutions recommending medical treatment abroad for deposed President Joseph Estrada provide object lessons in realpolitik. The message is obvious, as blatant a demonstration of political reality as a VIP siren clearing the way through a crowded street. This, the calculating attitude behind the resolutions declares, is how the big boys really play the game of politics.

The contrast to the high principles that led to Estrada's ouster in the first place is so marked that the difference defies belief. A convenor of Plunder Watch, the group monitoring the progress of the Estrada plunder trial at the Sandiganbayan, had the sharpest take on the issue: "This is the most vulgar manifestation of political pragmatism on the part of our political elite," Carol Araullo said the other day.

The resolutions, authored in the Senate by Sen. Blas Ople and in the House by Rep. Didagen Dilangalen, are couched in politically correct language, but they are wrong—sometimes disastrously so—on every level one looks at them.

The most basic is also the most important. The resolutions violate the constitutional principle of the separation of powers. Ople, Dilangalen and a host of others have pointed to the recommendatory nature of the resolutions as proof that the legislature does not intend to compromise the independence of the judiciary. Nonsense. The question of whether Estrada should be allowed to seek treatment abroad for his ailing knees, after undergoing a completely successful eye operation in Makati City, is eminently an issue for the Sandiganbayan to decide on—as it has in fact already decided in the negative. But the resolutions were introduced, and the signatures of 19 senators and 130 congressmen solicited, precisely to make the anti-graft court change that decision.

The bottom-line reason behind the resolutions, however, is nothing if not political: to promote political peace and encourage reconciliation with the pro-Estrada opposition. This is superficially laudable, but since the country's courts are mandated to consider legal reasons, not political, in reaching its decisions, the recommendations themselves are not only injudicious; they are anti-judiciary.

Speaker Jose de Venecia offers another, related, reason. "The sooner we solve the Estrada problem, the better for this country so we can move forward." No argument there. But De Venecia assumes that the best way to solve the problem is to diffuse "the political poison in the air" by allowing the administration, the opposition and Estrada himself additional breathing room. De Venecia is a political master when it comes to building legislative coalitions, but what works in the House may not necessarily work in the country at large. What works in the House is a tacit agreement to paper over differences. If we do that on a national scale, however, we would condemn ourselves to perpetual political immaturity. The Estrada trial poses difficult problems, but the difficulty should not blind us to the essential truth: we need to see the trial through. That is the only way we can grow politically.

Ople et al. proffer the argument from reputation: they allege that the probability of flight is nil, because fleeing would blacken Estrada's name permanently. Really? If the prospect of impeachment did not deter Estrada from raiding the nation's coffers, would mere damage to his reputation prevent him from fleeing? Proponents have also cited the case of assassinated leader Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who was allowed to leave for the United States for a heart operation in 1980. Those who survived martial law with their principles intact will feel a revulsion at the mere comparison between Aquino and Estrada, but the issue must be addressed. Are the two cases truly comparable?

Yes, but only if one makes the case that the Philippines today is under martial rule, that Malacañang is ruled by a dictator, that the court hearing the Estrada case is a military tribunal, or that the country needs to make a display of humanitarianism to preserve its standing in the international community.

In the end, the only question facing the Sandiganbayan is the same question of fact that it has already answered in its decision: Will Estrada enjoy the same kind of medical treatment here as he would have abroad? He says no, but a look into his eyes should settle the issue.

Estrada's knees

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE RESOLUTION of the Senate favoring the motion of Joseph Estrada for permission to go to the United States for surgery on his knees has further lowered my regard for that body, which used to enjoy the nation's respect for its responsible and circumspect decisions. That once august chamber was, during an illustrious past, graced with the likes of Quezon and Osmeña and other estimable statesmen who lent honor to what was (then) appropriately called the Upper House.

That title did not have only a physical connotation but emphasized the superiority of the Senate as the more perceptive and less impulsive body than the House of Representatives, which was considered more prone to less deliberative and mature action owing presumably to its younger membership.

By contrast, my admiration has increased for the senators who did not sign the resolution, namely, Franklin Drilon, Joker Arroyo, Renato Cayetano, Manuel Villar and Francis Pangilinan. They have demonstrated sounder judgment and less naivete than their too-believing and impressionable majority colleagues who have made common cause with the minority in supporting the ex-president.

The resolution is clearly an attempt to influence the members of the special division trying Erap into granting him permission to leave beyond the jurisdiction of even our Supreme Court. That permission may, in effect, authorize Estrada to escape the rigor of our laws and the punishment he may suffer, not excluding the death penalty, if he is convicted of the heinous crime of plunder.

Faced with this ominous possibility, Estrada may not decide to come home and instead become a fugitive from Philippine justice. He will then be enjoying the immunity of many of his cronies now claiming political asylum abroad and the confederates of President Marcos who have taken similar evasive action against their prosecution and punishment.

These fugitives are not charged with the same offenses imputed to Estrada, which is all the more reason why he should be more anxious to leave this country and never come back. With all the alleged offenses hanging over his head, the temptation to renege on his promise to return may be too strong to resist. Moral scruples will not restrain this man who has not hesitated to violate no less than the sacred oath he took as President of the Philippines.

The justification of the resolution is that every person, including Estrada, has a right to be treated by doctors of his own choice. Every person is not accused of raiding the treasury of billions of pesos belonging to the public. The former president is now under detention because plunder is a capital offense and the evidence against him is strong. That should be reason enough to hold him here.

The constitutional right to travel, even for urgent medical reasons, is not absolute. This right is subject to restriction by the courts even for persons on bail, and more so for persons who are not bailable like Erap. In Manotoc v. Court of Appeals, 142 SCRA 149, the Supreme Court did not permit the petitioner, who was facing estafa charges, to go to the United States to explore business prospects. It held that the condition of his bail bond was that he should appear before the court whenever he was so directed.

The case of Benigno Aquino Jr. is no argument in favor of Estrada. In the first place, Erap's problem is his knees, not his heart; osteoarthritis is not as life-threatening and does not require a multiple by-pass. In the second place, Estrada's medical need is certified only by his own doctors, who might reasonably be suspected as biased in his favor and expect to charge fat fees for their services. Estrada's motion disparages our own physicians and belittles many of our hospitals that have the facilities and equipment for the surgery he seeks.

Marcos might have felt that he could be accused of arranging the murder of Aquino if he were operated on in this country and died under the knife. The despot was highly suspected of every manner of wrongdoing, which might have persuaded him to let Aquino have his surgery abroad. Then, too, Aquino had been detained for eight years (compared to Erap's detention of only two years so far). Sending Aquino away would put an end to this gadfly's constant attacks on the dictatorship or at least muffle them by distance.

The most important difference is the fact that Aquino was convicted of trumped-up charges and sentenced by the puppet court martial to die by musketry. As there was no hope of relief from the Supreme Court then, Aquino naturally stayed away to save his life (only to change his mind later for his appointment in Samarra). Unlike Aquino, Erap is facing serious valid charges supported by strong evidence of his guilt. His conviction is not being railroaded and is in fact being obstructed in every possible way by his lawyers.

A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate as it applies to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would not impair her independence because she has her own powers to protect it. But the current "suggestions" of the senators (and now also of the congressmen) are fraught with danger because they unduly pressure the special division of the Sandiganbayan, which consists of only three justices who do not have the same defenses as the President of the Philippines.

I hope Chair Minita Chico-Nazario and Justices Edilberto Sandoval and Teresita de Castro will have the courage to resist the improper influence of the legislators and rule on Erap's motion as their conscience bids them to see the light and the law.

'Lent na! Game na!'

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

DID you hear about the two-seater plane that crashed on a snow-covered cemetery somewhere in Europe? According to the search and rescue team, 50 bodies have already been recovered…and the digging continues!

Lent is the time for in-depth soul-searching so as to rescue and recover our souls. As it were, it is the time for us to roll up our sleeves, and get to work on our spiritual well-being. Lent *na*, game *ka na ba*? Game *na*! Below is the acronym G-A-M-E N-A to guide us toward a meaningful Lenten season.

* * *

G—God *na*! Most of the time, what preoccupies our minds and hearts is *pera na*, or *negosyo na*, or good time *na*. Lent reminds us to go back to our hearts and there find Him. "Seek first the kingdom of God, and everything will be given unto you." Find time, make time, seize time for God. Allow God to take you by the hand and lead you to still waters once again. Let go of your small screen and let God show you the big picture once again. Work on contact moments with your God.

* * *

A—Admit *na*! In humility, let us go back to the Lord with contrite hearts, admitting that we are weak, we are sinners and that we need Him. Stop running away from Him. Get rid of the delusion that you can make it on your own. Let not pride keep you far from your God. Let go of foolish pride that says, "I'm already muddy; might as well stay in the mud." All it takes is a moment to say "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner." Take time to go to the "red light district" (confessional box) and embrace your God once again.

Work on humility, not pride.

* * *

M—Meditate *na*! Ash Wednesday reminded us that we are dust, and to dust we will return. Lent should lead us to reflect on and go back to the basics once again. How long have I been in this world already? What have I done, and what am I doing with my life? What do I want to do for the rest of my life? What is really important to me? What are my values? Am I a good father or a good mother, a good employer? What have I done for others? What have I contributed to this world? What will people remember about me after I am gone? What will God tell me when I finally come before Him face to face? Work on an honest to goodness meditation and soul-searching. *Ano nga ba talaga, kuya?*

* * *

E—Express *na*! Valentine's Day started us off toward expressing our love to those we love. Make a list of people you have taken—and are still taking—for granted in your life. Tell them you appreciate them. Now. Not when they are gone. Promise yourself not to be unkind or nasty. Why hurt people? What for? Life is hard enough. Don't make it harder for them. Stop being a cross to other people. Stop being a pin that pricks, but a pin that has decided to bend so as not to hurt others anymore—a safety pin! Stop being an *aray* (ouch!) Instead, be an *alay* (gift). Keep working on affirmation and love.

* * *

N—No to sin *na*! The Gospel today (Mt. 4, 1-11) is about the temptations that Jesus went through, and how He just said no. Jesus was clear and firm when it came to temptations. The problem with us is that we vacillate, we give an inch, we rationalize, make exceptions and before we know it, we have fallen, we have sinned. Temptation is the key to the door to a moment of pleasure which however may lead to a lifetime (or even an eternity) of misery. If you really think about it, the pleasure of a sin is small compared to its consequences. *Sa kaunting sarap, saksakan ang hirap*. For those who think they are on a roll, think again. It will catch up with you, sooner or later. Usually, sooner. Keep working on self-denial and self-discipline.

* * *

A—Action *na*! All of the things we mentioned above could inspire us, but they come to nothing if they do not "perspire" us. It is not enough to agree with our hearts and minds to God's plans. We must concretize them in our lives. It is not enough to keep saying, "Correct *ka diyan*," while continuing to be the "weakest link." We must act now. Now means today—this very moment. It may mean pausing right now to say, "Thank you, I'm sorry, I love you, Lord." It may mean picking up the phone to say, "Thank you, I'm sorry, I love you," to someone right now. It may mean reaching out to someone beside you or near you right now. It may mean writing out a check, or setting aside old clothes or goodies for charity right now. And the list goes on, the digging goes on for doable ways and means of concretizing God's love. Keep on working on love, concrete actions motivated by deep gratitude to God who loves us so much and who has forgiven us much.

* * *

Lent *na*! Game *na*! Not an easy game to play, *sa totoo lang*, because it entails sacrifice and actions that disturb our comfort zones. Do all these with love. As St. Augustine put it: "Love makes sacrifice easy, and perfect love makes sacrifice a joy."

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, Lent na. Help me, para ako'y game na game na. Amen.

Where is Central Asia?

COMMENTARY

Belinda A. Aquino

HONOLULU—When I repeated to my class a recent National Public Radio newscast that Osama bin Laden could be hiding out in the mountains of Central Asia, a flurry of hands went up as if to ask, "Where on earth is Central Asia?" True enough, just about the whole class didn't have a clue as to where this part of Asia is located. And most of these students are Asians, or of Asian ancestry!

One American student asked if Central Asia was where Genghis Khan came from. Amused, I confused the class even further when I said that Genghis Khan came from Outer Mongolia, which is now referred to as "Inner Asia." And I told them he was not a Muslim but a Buddhist.

This might sound like a lesson in Geography 101, but since the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics disintegrated in 1991, the term "Central Asia" has been increasingly used in international relations. But to students, some of whom don't even know where Asia is to begin with, it's like talking about Planet Mars.

A good way to remember Central Asia is that all its constituent nations end in "tan"—Tajikistan, Kyrgystan, Kazakstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. All were part of the USSR before the latter's collapse early in the last decade. Now, all five are completely independent and referred to as the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS). Their big powerful neighbors are Russia and China.

You might ask, what about Pakistan? This country, India, Bangladesh and others are classified as "South Asia." And Afghanistan, which also ends in "tan"? This is enough to stomp you, and the not-so-well-known answer is "West Asia," bordering the Middle East. Most people, however, say, Afghanistan is Afghanistan, which shows how little the world knows about this country, which has been in the limelight since Sept. 11.

Tajikistan is immediately north of Afghanistan and west of China, landlocked and populated by an estimated 6.6 million people. This is a good, remote place to hide if there was one. Its highest point is the Pik Imeni Ismail Samani, formerly called "Communism Peak," the tallest mountain in the former USSR. Since it became free of the USSR, Tajikistan has had three changes in government and a five-year civil war. It remains embroiled in continuing political violence, which impairs its ability to engage meaningfully in international affairs.

Kyrgystan is bigger, located west of China and described as a country of incredible natural beauty and proud nomadic traditions. It has an estimated population of 4.7 million. The country was annexed by Russia in 1864. It also suffers from chronic violence in inter-ethnic relations and terrorism. The majority group is the Kirghiz at 53 percent and other sizable ethnic minorities are the Russians, Uzbeks, Ukrainians and Germans.

The largest territory in the region belongs to Kazakhstan, which is nearly four times the size of Texas, lying northwest of China, with an estimated 16.7 million population. It has a bloody history. First conquered by Russia in the 18th century, it was annexed by the USSR in 1936. Massive immigration allowed the Russians to eventually outnumber the native Kazaks, a mixture of Turkic and Mongol nomadic peoples who started migrating into the region in the 13th century. Major national issues are the development of the country's vast natural resources and a more cohesive national identity, since the country has never been united as a single nation.

Like most of the countries in the area, Uzbekistan was conquered by the Russians in the 19th century and became a socialist republic in 1925. Its biggest concern revolves around an Islamic insurgency based in Tajikistan and Afghanistan. Though smaller in area than Kazakhstan, it has more people, estimated at 25.1 million. And like its neighbors, one of its major problems is the curtailment of human rights and lack of democratic freedoms.

Also annexed by Russia between 1865 and 1885, Turkmenistan became a Soviet republic in 1925. It is slightly bigger than California in size and has an estimated population of 4.6 million. It is likewise a multiethnic country, with Turkmen composing the large majority at 77 percent, followed by the Uzbeks, Russians and Kazakhs. Geographically, it borders the Caspian Sea between Iran and Kazakhstan. The president has absolute control of the country and political opposition is not tolerated. It has extensive natural gas reserves which could be a boon to the country's future economic development. Turkmenistan is described as the most "curious" of the Central Asian republics, resembling an Arab Gulf state "without the money."

These are poor, small, underdeveloped and politically unstable countries by international standards, but it behooves the world to know more about them because they could be the next "flash points" in this continuing "war on terrorism." This war has crept up to Southeast Asia and it's only a matter of time before it proceeds northward, given the bellicose determination of US President Bush.

Belinda A. Aquino teaches Political Science and Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii at Manoa where she is also director of the Center for Philippine Studies.

Paper cranes and the bamboo organ

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

THE WOMEN'S Crisis Center, one of the first nongovernment organizations to address the problem of violence against women, commemorates the life of Raquel "Rock" Edralin-Tiglao, their executive director for a decade starting in 1990, by launching the Raquel Edralin-Tiglao Institute for Family Violence Prevention (RETIFVP) on Thursday, Feb. 28.

The next day, a concert sponsored by the Reproductive Rights Resource Group (of which the WCC is a member) will be held at the UP Theater. Dubbed "Rock for Rock," the concert features Cynthia Alexander, Susan Fernandez, Carol Bello of Pinikpikan, Color it Red, Barbie's Cradle, Sandwich and Session Road. Beneficiaries will be the RETIFVP and the Fund for Women in Crisis. The fund will be used to help disadvantaged women faced with legal, medical and counseling needs.

On the morning of Feb. 28, friends, survivors and staff of the WCC are invited to drop by the institute, at 18 Mapagkawanggawa St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City, where there will be an exhibit of Rock's memorabilia, mural painting, video showing, sushi making, card reading and roundtables where guests will share their recollections of Rock and the WCC.

Most of all, the women will be folding paper cranes. I wondered why the paper-crane folding was taking such a central role in the commemoration activities until I read this essay enclosed in the material that the WCC sent me. It was so inspiring, I'm thinking of learning how to fold paper cranes myself. Read on.

* * *

ACCORDING to a Japanese legend, one's wish might be granted if she or he folded a thousand paper cranes and offered these to the gods.

When a young girl, Sadako Sasaki, fell ill from the effects of radiation that resulted from the bombing of Hiroshima, she started folding paper cranes. Before she could finish folding a thousand paper cranes, however, she succumbed to leukemia.

Many people were touched by Sasaki's story. They took up from where she left off and continued to fold paper cranes—this time, to wish for peace so that people, especially children, would not have to get sick and die from the effects of radiation.

The legend and Sasaki's story are immortalized at the Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima Peace Park in Japan where paper cranes are on exhibit.

At the Women's Crisis Center, we have adopted paper crane folding as an expression of our wish—and prayer—that violence against women and children cease.

* * *

THE PRACTICE started when we took to folding paper cranes for Rock who succumbed to complications of breast cancer on Feb. 28, 2001.

We learned to make paper cranes from Girlie Villariba. She introduced paper-crane folding as a way to prayer at an all-woman's prayer session held at Hayat Imam's home the weekend before Rock left for treatment in the United States. On Rock's return, at their home or at local hospitals where she continued treatments, we decked her room with paper cranes. At Rock's wake and funeral, we also made paper cranes.

Paper-crane-folding-as-prayer requires skill and concentration. Initially, banter and nervous laughter marked and masked our ineptitude at both paper folding and prayer. Once we got the technique, however, a collective hush would fall as we concentrated on every fold we made, each crease increasing our anticipation of a transformation about to take place before our eyes. Unknowingly, because we had focused our wish, because we had gone into silence, we were being transformed by insights—answers to prayer—that emerged. As we continued to fold and concentrate—as the act of folding took us into deep silence where prayer was possible—not only was a piece of paper being transformed into a crane, we ourselves were being transformed into instruments for the fulfillment of our wish.

In the past year since Rock passed away, friends of the WCC, survivors and guests at social functions of the WCC have joined us in folding paper cranes. Last Christmas, we had enough paper cranes to decorate our six-foot tree.

For as long as there is violence against women and children, we will hang on to our wish and vision of a society hospitable to women and children. We will continue to fold paper cranes until all women, men and children are free!

* * *

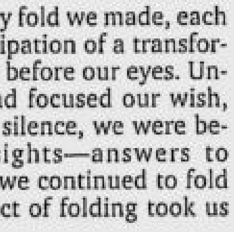
FOR 27 years now, the parish of Las Piñas has opened its doors to the public, to music lovers particularly, for the annual International Bamboo Organ Festival. This year's festival opens on Friday, Feb. 22, with a concert devoted to the works of Johann Sebastian Bach, featuring artists Josef Doller, conductor, and the Grazer Dom Kantorei from Austria, organist Kalevi Kiviniemi from Finland, the Manila Symphony Orchestra II, and soloists Armando Salarza, Justin U. Texon and Berly Garcia.

A highlight of the festival will be the world premiere on Feb. 28 and March 1 of Ryan Cayabyab's "Misa 2000," his prize-winning entry to the First Onassis International Competition for Original Music Composition for Dance and Original Choreography 2001 (submitted in collaboration with Douglas Nierras and Powerdance). Cayabyab himself leads the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra and the San Miguel Master Chorale under Jonathan Velasco.

Under the leadership of parish priest Fr. Allen Aganon, the 27th International Bamboo Organ Festival is being organized by the Bamboo Organ Foundation Inc. in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Department of Tourism, Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., Mayor Vergel Aguilar and the city of Las Piñas, and San Miguel Corp. and other private sponsors.

Con games and practical solutions

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

MANY people argue against taking a constitutional and principled approach to the problem of the Abu Sayyaf because we need to be practical and realistic. They justify accepting American military assistance to crush this terrorist group on this basis. Is this a practical and realistic option? I submit that it is not.

After nine months of trying to rescue the hostages, the military has only shown that their approach does not work. If the objective is simply to free the remaining three hostages (two Americans and one Filipino) unharmed, then the most practical solution might be to pay the ransom being demanded by the Abu Sayyaf and to go after them once they release their hostages.

Paying ransom, of course, may save the hostages but it does not end the problem. In the case of the Sipadan hostages, the ransom money only allowed the Abu Sayyaf to buy more weapons and equipment and recruit more members. Why the military could not capture the key leaders of the Abu Sayyaf after the hostages were freed remains a mystery to this day. But here, precisely, we need to examine the motivational factors that compromise the integrity of military operations, and to review the efficacy of the military approach itself in trying to solve a problem with a long history and a complex socio-political component.

Is the military approach not working because some military officials are in cahoots with the kidnappers, or is it because our soldiers are under-equipped and under-trained? It may be both, but it may also be because of the inherent limits of a military solution when applied to what is basically a social problem. Yet even before we have figured out what the problem is, we have brought in US troops to participate in the hunt on the premise that the Abu Sayyaf is part of al-Qaida. The costs of this joint military effort will far outweigh the ransom that is being demanded and we are not even sure that the hostages will come out of this alive.

Armed individuals and "lost commands," fragments of revolutionary and vigilante formations, are common in the contested areas of Mindanao. Kinship, ethno-linguistic and religious ties bind their members to the local communities, thus rendering them invisible. It is extremely difficult to differentiate bandits from ordinary residents, and even more from cadres of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front with whom the government is talking peace.

There is no clean, surgical, overnight approach to such a situation. A military approach will draw the government into a prolonged low-intensity and dirty war that will destroy communities and drive people into an even more wretched existence as refugees. Bringing US troops into this situation raises the conflict to a higher level and provides reasons for other foreign nations and groups that do not like America to come to the aid of bandits styling themselves as rebels.

If it is training we want from the United States, the recently concluded joint exercises in a camp in Central Luzon show that this can be done without involving US troops in a local war. If it is equipment we desire, we do not need an actual combat situation to demonstrate the use of such equipment. If the problem is the virus of corruption within our military, no foreign forces will be able to get rid of this for us.

So why are the US Special Forces here? No one has told the Filipino nation the full story. On her visit to the United States last year, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo politely declined President Bush's offer of US troops to deal with the Abu Sayyaf. Then after a team of US military advisers visited Mindanao, she suddenly announced that the next round of Balikatan exercises would be held in Basilan. The decision was so abrupt that our officials could not decide which document to invoke as legal cover for this unusual visit of US troops to Mindanao—the Visiting Forces Agreement or the Mutual Defense Treaty. They could not say if this was a joint training or a joint war.

The message was less hazy abroad: Basilan was the next theater of the global war against terrorism. Media networks quickly redeployed their war correspondents from Afghanistan to Basilan. They came for the war they were instructed to cover and could not find it. One American correspondent dryly concluded that the United States had been "conned" into fighting a group of local bandits.

Even the US forces themselves seem to be operating with an exaggerated view of the situation they are in. When they showed up with high-powered weapons and stood guard in front of a small bank in Zamboanga City while one of them was converting foreign currency inside, we knew at once they had been fed a portrait of Mindanao as another Afghanistan.

It is not difficult to tell who is doing the conning and who is being conned here. The American people may have been conned into believing that the evil al-Qaida is operating from Basilan. But it is doubtful that Bush and the Pentagon do not know what the real score is. If the Abu Sayyaf did not exist, they would probably invent it just to validate their vision of the world after Sept. 11. The Filipino public may have been conned into accepting the offer of American help in Mindanao as a quick solution to the Abu Sayyaf, but it is hard to believe that President Macapagal is entirely clueless about larger US intentions.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

People's perception of people power

REPORTING on a national survey done in November 2001 which the author conducted for the UP Center for Leadership, Citizenship and Democracy, this analysis deals with the people's views and opinions on the nation's three uprisings at Edsa in Metro Manila since 1986.

In the throes of political turmoil and economic crisis and on the 16th anniversary of the Edsa Revolution in 1986, it is in order to ask what Filipinos know and feel about "people power" and its second and third application since then.

COMMENTARY

Jose V. Abueva

Filipinos know and understand "people power." The UP national survey we conducted in November 2001 asked what the people, 18 years old and over, understand and feel about the Edsa revolts, "people power" and democracy. To the question, "Do you know or understand the word PEOPLE POWER?" 87.5 percent of the respondents nationwide replied that they "know and understand"; 12.5 percent said they do not. In the National Capital Region (NCR), 99 percent said they know and understand. Those who said they know and understand were 93.3 percent in the rest of Luzon, 71.5 percent in the Visayas, and 82.8 percent in Mindanao. Urban respondents who answered positively were 95.8 percent; and rural ones were 77.4 percent.

Among social classes, 100 percent of ABC respondents, 89 percent of D, and 79 percent of E respondents said they know and understand people power.

Clearly, the great majority of Filipino adults affirm that they know and understand people power. To probe their response, they were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: "True people power is strengthening the political power of the majority of Filipinos." Nationwide, 71 percent agreed; 19 percent disagreed; 9 percent were undecided. In the NCR, 74 percent agreed. Among the social classes, 75.4 of E respondents, 70.4 percent of D, and 67.3 percent of ABC agreed. More rural respondents agreed (77.4 percent) than urban ones (66.5 percent).

It appears that more lower social class respondents and rural ones understand people power to mean strengthening the political power of the majority of Filipinos, including themselves who have less power and would like to have more power compared to the upper classes and the urban residents.

Next, the respondents were asked their opinion regarding the 1986 Edsa Revolution, the Edsa rally in January 2001, and the Edsa rally and march to Malacañang on May 1, 2001. First, they were asked to agree or disagree with the statement: "True people power refers to the collective effort of citizens, like what they did at Edsa in 1986 when they toppled the Marcos regime."

Nationwide, 77 percent agreed and 13 percent disagreed, or a margin of plus 64 percent (the difference between agreement and disagreement). In the NCR, 83 percent agreed, 12 percent disagreed. Urban and rural respondents agreed in nearly the same proportions, namely, 78 percent and 76 percent. Among the social classes, agreement was 84 percent of ABC, 77.5 percent of D and 73 percent of E. Evidently, a high proportion of Filipinos associate people power with the collective power of citizens as shown at the Edsa Revolution in 1986.

A clear majority agreed Edsa II was "true people power."

Compared to the respondents' strong agreement that the Edsa Revolution in 1986 that toppled Marcos was an example of "true people power," relatively fewer agreed and relatively more disagreed with the statement: "True people power refers to the collective effort of citizens, like what they did in Edsa in January 2001, when the people forced President Estrada to resign or leave Malacañang."

Nationwide, 57 percent agreed, 28 percent disagreed, or a margin of 28 percent. In the NCR, 61 percent agreed; in the Visayas, 73 percent, the highest agreement among the three island regions. Significantly, the clear majority who agreed that the ouster or resignation of Estrada was an exercise of "true people power" was double the percentage of those who disagreed. It should also be noted that even among Estrada's constituency, the D and E classes, 56 percent agreed with the statement, as compared to 63 percent of ABC.

More people disagreed that Edsa III was "true people power."

How did the respondents agree or disagree to the statement: "True people power refers to the people's attack at Malacañang on May 1, 2001 to force President Macapagal-Arroyo to leave Malacañang and make Joseph Estrada president again"?

Nationwide, 30 percent agreed that Edsa Tres was "true people power," while 49 percent disagreed. In the NCR where the event took place, only 27 percent agreed, while 59 percent disagreed. There was also greater disagreement in the urban areas (54 percent) than in the rural areas (44 percent). While a majority disagreed with the statement among the ABC class (58 percent) and the C class (51 percent), less than a majority (41.5 percent) of the D class disagreed and as many as 34 percent or one-third of them agreed that Edsa Tres was "true people power."

On the whole then, almost 50 percent (nationwide) disagreed that Edsa III was "true people power," as against one-third who agreed that it was. As much as 59 percent disagreed in the NCR where the people were more aware of the nature of the Edsa rally and the resulting siege on Malacañang.

It may be concluded that to more Filipinos, especially in Metro Manila, and except only in the E class, Edsa III was an organized mob, not a principled revolt. It was seen as a cynical move by a disgraced and repudiated president and his allies and supporters to put him back in power in a hurry after his sudden downfall, despite his betrayal of the people 's trust in the view of many more Filipinos. In desperation over their loss of power, Estrada and his allies were fomenting a class war that pitted "the poor against the rich." This explosive development provoked soul-searching among the middle and upper classes and the ruling elite.

People power is now part of Filipino political culture and behavior.

Filipinos understand and approve of people power as their spontaneous collective action to take matters into their own hands to force the resignation or ouster of a president whom they judge to be grossly corrupt and abusive of his powers, a traitor to his high office and his country.

"*Tama na, sobra na, palitan na!*" Through people power, Filipinos are making a moral judgment and meting out a political sentence. However, they also realize that removing a president through people power is an extraordinary act that should not be abused or perverted. The military and the police should not feel that they are the ultimate arbiter between the people and the regime as to the latter's moral legitimacy and political capacity to govern. Otherwise, democracy would be fatally disabled. The normal constitutional means of changing the president should be observed if our democracy is to be consolidated and institutionalized.

Jose V. Abueva is the president of Kalayaan College and a fellow and trustee of the Social Weather Stations.

Please send feedback to opinion@inquirer.com.ph

TALK OF THE TOWN

Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

PEACe bonds: Legal, moral(2)

THE CAUCUS of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO) maintains that its P1.4 billion in net profit from the auction of 10-year government zero-coupon bonds was obtained legally and morally.

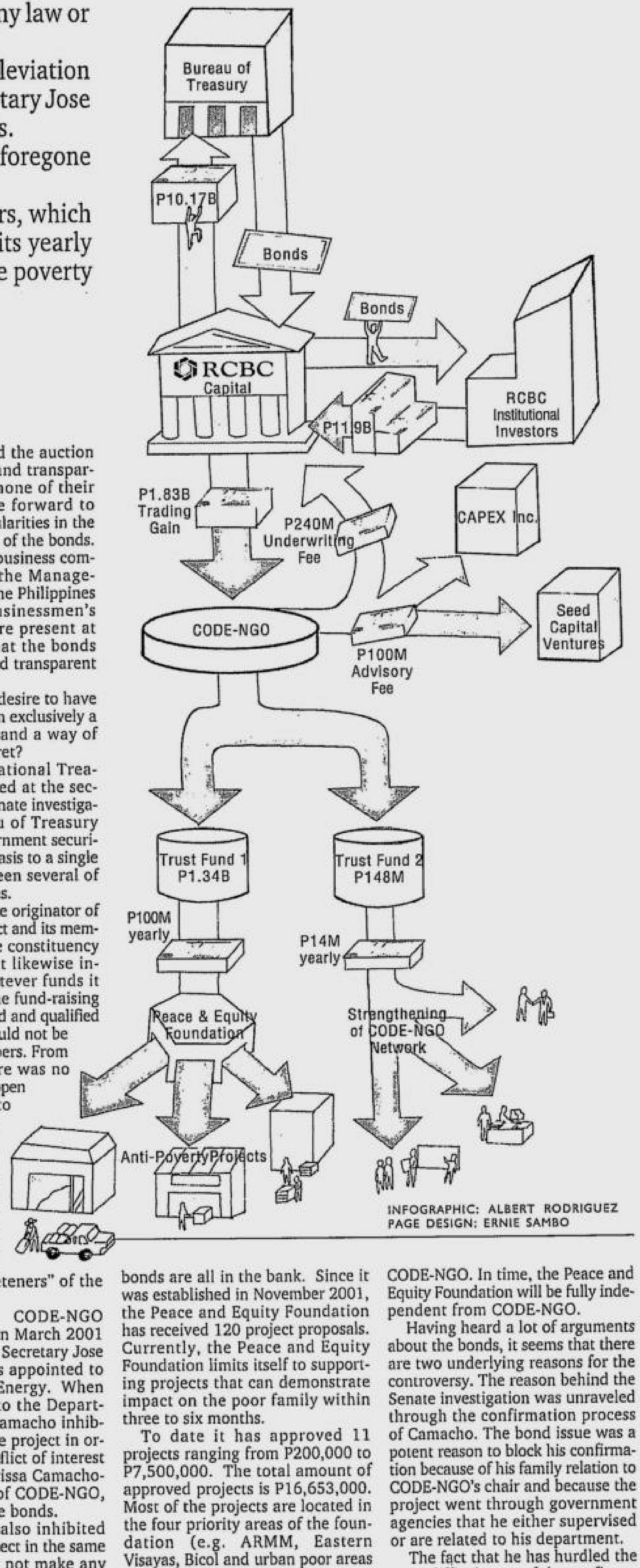
"We played by the rules while making sure at every step of the way that we did not break any law or government procedure," CODE-NGO says.

It denies using influence to obtain the money from the flotation of Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates, or PEACe bonds, as it won the bidding fair and square. It insists that Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, brother of CODE-NGO's chair, inhibited himself from the issuance of the bonds.

CODE-NGO also belies allegations that it was granted special tax incentives and that there was foregone government tax revenue.

Its reason for tapping the capital market: dwindling development funds from foreign donors, which forced many non-government organizations to either close down or cut their services. With its yearly interest income of about P100 million from a trust fund that it set up, CODE-NGO will finance poverty alleviation projects.

MONEY TRAIL



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Civil society works to finance fight against poverty

By Danilo A. Songco
CODE-NGO national coordinator

SINCE CODE-NGO was created in 1991, one of the biggest challenges it has had to face is declining funds for NGO development projects.

Money for development poured into the country when Cory Aquino became President owing to the desire of foreign governments to strengthen the new democracy in the Philippines. Since Mrs. Aquino adopted the policy that her government would work with NGOs and people's organizations (POs or grassroots organizations), a significant part of this development assistance went through them. In a study that CODE-NGO did in 1998, we determined that the average amount of funds that went to NGOs/POs from 1986 to 1996 was P500 million a year.

These funds started to dwindle when the Philippine economy started to improve. Thus, in 1995 the United States Agency for International Development and the Canadian International Development Assistance cut their NGO programs by 50 percent and continued to progressively reduce their NGO funds since then. (As this article was being written, we were informed that the Ford Foundation, one of the biggest donor agencies to Philippine NGOs and POs, would close down its Philippine operations by next year. The Ford Foundation gives around $10 million a year to NGOs and POs).

Vacuum

This has created a huge vacuum in development assistance and caused many NGOs and POs to close down or reduce their programs. This meant that the communities that they serve have been deprived of their services.

Thus, in March of 2001, CODE-NGO incoming chair Marissa Camacho-Reyes formally started a project that would significantly address this growing problem. Through the assistance of investment bankers, the Poverty Eradication and Alleviation Certificates (PEACe bonds) project was conceptualized. As national coordinator, I was her alter ego in this project.

The idea behind the PEACe bond project was to raise P1 billion from the capital market, a potent source of funds. The target amount had to be big in order to make a significant impact on a colossal problem. CODE-NGO would buy bonds from government and sell them in the secondary market. The profit from this sale would be used to establish an independent foundation that would manage a trust fund (only the interest would be spent) to finance NGO/PO projects to fight poverty. The fund would be made available to all legitimate NGOs and POs - not just to CODE-NGO members.

Since CODE-NGO is not a Government Securities Eligible Dealer, it contracted the services of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. (RCBC) to act as its agent to purchase the zero-coupon bonds or zeroes. It was also able to obtain the services of an underwriter, RCBC Capital, which agreed to purchase from CODE-NGO all the zeroes that it would buy from the government (through RCBC) at a pre-agreed price. In capital market parlance, this is referred to as a firm underwriting agreement.

CODE-NGO proposed to the government to sell the 10-year zeroes. It also worked to secure eligibilities from certain government agencies to make these bonds marketable in the secondary market for a profit.

Although CODE-NGO initially tried to obtain the zeroes on an exclusive sale basis, the Bureau of Treasury (BTr) decided to auction them off. Thus, on Oct. 16, 2001, RCBC was able to obtain P 35 billion worth of zeroes from this auction on behalf of CODE-NGO. The winning bid was 12.75 percent per year which meant that RCBC would pay P10.168 billion as its current value and the government would redeem the bonds at P35 billion in 10 years.

Following the underwriting agreement, RCBC sold the bonds to RCBC Capital at 11 percent per annum or P 11.9 billion. The bank reimbursed itself the P 10.168 billion that it paid BTr and remitted the difference of P 1.8 billion to CODE-NGO.

After paying fees, CODE-NGO divided its net proceeds of P1.48 billion into two. It established a trust fund of P 148 million for the sustainability of its network members and organized the Peace, Equity and Access for Community Empowerment Foundation (Peace and Equity Foundation) to manage a trust fund of P 1.3 billion.

While the fund raising objective was successful, the Peace bonds are now the center of controversy. It is the subject of a Senate investigation as well as intense public debate. The allegations against the PEACe bonds range from it being a scam, to it being a grand conspiracy among CODE-NGO and several government agencies, to CODE-NGO unethically using its influence to obtain the funds that it raised in the project.

In order to prevent readers, who may not be keen about financial market transactions from being confused, I will confine our arguments to the major issues raised against the bonds. There has been a lot of disinformation and misinformation about the bonds lately and these have created more heat than light in addressing the issues about this project.

From where we stand, there are four major points that should be established before making a conclusion about the bonds:

Did government lose money?

Definitely not. The P1.8 billion in *gross margin* is *private funds*. The P10.168 billion that was paid by RCBC to the BTr is the public fund but the gain of P1.8 billion is a private fund because it is a *trading gain* realized from buying and selling government security. Money market traders make money this way. This happens as a normal course of business in the capital market on a daily basis.

There was no special tax exemption given to the PEACe bonds. The BIR merely confirmed that the gains from the retirement of PEACe bonds are tax exempt by their very nature as a 10-year bond. Section (32) B (7) g of the 1997 National Internal Revenue Code states that gains from retirement of bonds (public and private) with a maturity of five years and more are exempt from payment of income tax, apparently to encourage long-term savings/ investments. CODE-NGO merely sought a ruling from the BIR to confirm this feature of the PEACe bonds. It did not ask for, nor it was granted special tax incentives.

There is no foregone tax revenue because gains from the PEACe bonds are exempt from tax in the first place. One does not lose something that is not there in the first place.

Another issue raised was that the government stands to lose tax revenues of P7.94 billion. The amount was arrived at by simply getting the difference between P35 billion (the face value of the zeroes, bonds) and P10.17 billion, which is the price paid by RCBC for the zeroes, and multiplying the difference of P24.83 billion with the 32-percent corporate income tax rate.

As pointed out by former finance minister Cesar Virata, now RCBC acting CEO, the computation amounts to "gross over simplification" of the corporate income tax process even assuming that indeed the income of the zeroes are taxable. As every experienced tax practitioner will know, our income tax system is computed based on net income, meaning, any gross income made by RCBC on the zeroes, in this case, P24.83 billion is subjected to ordinary deductions for expenses and other deductions permitted to be made by a corporate taxpayer.

It is only the *net income after all deductions* that is subject to the 32-percent corporate income tax. In addition, we were advised that, for tax purposes, since the alleged gain will be made over 10 years, then the tax (as properly computed) is also spread over 10 years, if ever there will be any such tax.

Furthermore, every taxpayer knows that income taxes are payable only on April 15 of every year. Assuming again that the income from the zeroes is subject to tax, then, it stands to reason that the tax is still not payable until April 15 of every year for the next 10 years. To conclude therefore that government will lose such a huge tax revenue is premature to say the least.

This project did not add P35 billion to the government's debt stock. The 10-year zeroes that were issued by the BTr are part of the borrowing program of the government to finance its budget deficit. In short, the BTr would have had to borrow to begin with.

The government only got P10 billion yet it has to pay P35 in 10 years?

The BTr borrowed P10.168 billion (present value) from the capital market at an interest rate of 12.75 percent payable in 10 years. If one multiplied P10.168 billion by 12.75 percent over a 10-year period (compounded semi-annually) the product would be P35 billion (face value). The difference with zeroes is that government does not pay the semi-annual interest, it makes a balloon payment of the face value at maturity.

In fact the government saved money in interest payment from the sale of the bonds because it fetched a lower price than the prevailing market rate for 10-year fixed interest bonds on the day of the auction.

So how come CODE-NGO made a huge gain despite the fact that it did not invest a single centavo of its own money (*laway lang ang puhunan*)?

Because its underwriter, RCBC Capital, agreed to advance the money to buy the bonds since it had a firm underwriting agreement with CODE-NGO. Apart from the obvious financial gain that RCBC would eventually make from trading the bonds in the market, it went into a partnership with CODE-NGO because it believes in the poverty alleviation objective of the project. This is an exercise of their corporate social responsibility. Likewise, this is not an unusual business practice because some underwriters do advance funds for their clients.

Transparent

Was the sale of the bonds done in a manner that is transparent and above board? Were any government regulations broken in the process?

Fifteen universal banks, five of which are multinational banks, participated in the auction of the bonds. The BTr offered between P30 billion and P50 billion worth of zeroes but P137 billion worth of bids, or almost four times the amount awarded, were received.

If indeed there was information asymmetry or if the auction was rigged, the bidders had two days to make their complaints and demand a re-bidding. Not one of the bidders raised a complaint. Since all of those who participated in the auction are expert traders, they would not have participated if the playing field was not level. Logic dictates that the bidders are the best witnesses to testify if the bidding was fair or not. They have not been invited up to this day.

As a matter of fact, in a forum sponsored by the Makati Business Club on Feb. 11, the executive director of the Bankers' Association of the Philippines and the president of the Money Market Association of the Philippines hailed the auction of the bonds as fair and transparent. They also said none of their members have come forward to complain about irregularities in the Oct. 16, 2001 auction of the bonds. Other leaders of the business community from MBC, the Management Association of the Philippines and the Bishops Businessmen's Conference who were present at the forum agreed that the bonds were sold in a fair and transparent manner.

Was CODE-NGO's desire to have the bonds sold to them exclusively a violation of the law and a way of keeping the deal secret?

Not at all. The National Treasurer himself admitted at the second hearing of the Senate investigation that the Bureau of Treasury sometimes sells government securities on a negotiated basis to a single buyer. There had been several of these negotiated sales.

CODE-NGO was the originator of the PEACe bond project and its members made up a large constituency that supported it. It likewise intended to open whatever funds it would obtain from the fund-raising project to all interested and qualified NGOs and POs. It would not be exclusive to its members. From that standpoint there was no compelling reason to open the bond project to other civil society groups.

Did the Secretary of Finance interfere in the process to enable CODE-NGO to raise this money? Did CODE-NGO use its connections in obtaining the "sweeteners" of the PEACe bonds?

Certainly not. CODE-NGO started the project in March 2001 even before Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho was appointed to the Department of Energy. When he was appointed to the Department of Finance, Camacho inhibited himself from the project in order to prevent a conflict of interest since his sister, Marissa Camacho-Reyes, is the chair of CODE-NGO, the proponent of the bonds.

Camacho-Reyes also inhibited herself from the project in the same vein. Camacho did not make any decision related to the bonds. He assigned Finance Undersecretary Cornelio Gison to attend to the project on behalf of the DOF and National Treasurer Sergio Edeza on behalf of BTr.

All the decisions of the government agencies that CODE-NGO had dealt with in this project were done at arms length basis. The government agencies involved made decisions independently in responding to CODE-NGO's requests at the initial stages of the project when it sought exclusive sale of the bonds. As far as the Monetary Board (MB) was concerned, CODE-NGO sought three eligibilities for the bonds but only got one. In the end, when the BTr decided to auction the zeroes, MB ruled that the secondary reserve eligibility that it granted should go to whoever wins the bonds in the auction. It is not exclusive to CODE-NGO.

If indeed CODE-NGO used its influence in the process, it should have obtained the bonds through an exclusive sale. We worked hard to obtain the requirements of the BTr for the sale of the zeroes thinking that having completed such requirements, the zeroes would be sold to us. Contrary to our desire, the National Treasurer decided that the bonds be auctioned in order to ensure transparency in its sale and in order to discover the real price of the bonds in the market. Had CODE-NGO lost in the auction, it would have lost everything that it worked for.

Where's the money?

The two trust funds were established from the net proceeds of P1.48 billion from the sale of the bonds are all in the bank. Since it was established in November 2001, the Peace and Equity Foundation has received 120 project proposals. Currently, the Peace and Equity Foundation limits itself to supporting projects that can demonstrate impact on the poor family within three to six months.

To date it has approved 11 projects ranging from P200,000 to P7,500,000. The total amount of approved projects is P16,653,000. Most of the projects are located in the four priority areas of the foundation (e.g. ARMM, Eastern Visayas, Bicol and urban poor areas of Metro Manila).

NGOs and POs interested in gaining access to the Peace and Equity fund may send their project proposals to: 2/F CCS Bldg., Social Development Complex, Ateneo de Manila University, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Tel nos. 4266001 (local 4624 and 4625) and 4265938. This is the CODE-NGO National Secretariat office which is the temporary home of the Peace and Equity Foundation.

Peace and Equity Foundation

The Board of Trustees of the Peace and Equity Foundation is made up of an eminent person (Fr. Noel Vasquez, former provincial and currently treasurer of the Society of Jesus, is the chair of the foundation); one from the business sector (Senen Bacani, former agriculture secretary who is the Treasurer); one from the basic sectors (Mercedes Nicolas, chair of a national organization of market vendors and other workers in the informal sector);and, six individuals from CODE-NGO, (Marcia Feria-Miranda; Camacho-Reyes, Guillermo Cua from a nationwide confederation of cooperatives, Marietta Paragas from the Cordilleras, Martiniano Magdolot from Mindanao and myself).

The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NPAC) and the Department of Finance will each have one representative as ex-officio, non-voting members of the board. As the term of office of the six trustees from CODE-NGO expires, they will be replaced by other prominent NGO leaders who are not from CODE-NGO. In time, the Peace and Equity Foundation will be fully independent from CODE-NGO.

Having heard a lot of arguments about the bonds, it seems that there are two underlying reasons for the controversy. The reason behind the Senate investigation was unraveled through the confirmation process of Camacho. The bond issue was a potent reason to block his confirmation because of his family relation to CODE-NGO's chair and because the project went through government agencies that he either supervised or are related to his department.

The fact that he has hurdled the most difficult part of the confirmation process does not seem to indicate that the Senate investigation will be aborted.

Unfortunately, the bonds have become a political issue.

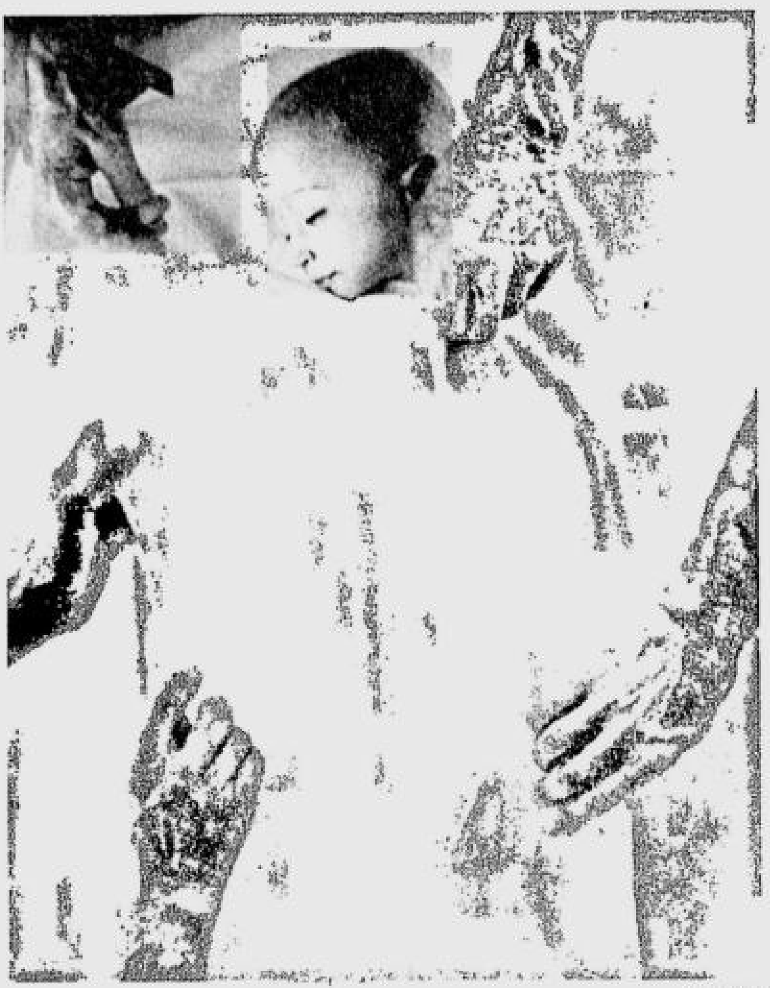
The other underlying reason seems to be the discomfort of some of our civil society colleagues in our participation in the capital market, one of the bastions of capitalism. Some civil society activists do not trust the market because they believe there is no such thing as a free market. As such, they probably conclude that the funds that we raised (particularly since they are quite huge) were the product of manipulation of the market.

However, when CODE-NGO decided to tap the capital market for funds, we knew we had to engage the market. The capital market has its own rules that one needs to follow if one wants to benefit from it. We played by these rules while making sure at every step of the way that we did not break any law or government procedure. Still we stand firm in our conviction that the funds that we raised were obtained legally and morally. The funds that we raised are fully accounted for and neither Camacho-Reyes nor I earned a single centavo from this project.

We set out in this project with a clear objective to raise funds for poverty eradication projects. We believe that the accomplishment of this objective will redound to the benefit of the poor and marginalized in our country and will lead to the strengthening of a vibrant yet financially beleaguered civil society.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



REUTERS

THE BODY of an Afghan refugee boy is prepared for burial in a Pakistan refugee camp in June 2001. The boy died in June 2001, after drought and political tensions forced his family to flee northern Afghanistan. This photograph, by Danish photographer Erik Refner for Berlingske Tidende, topped a record 49,235 entries submitted to the 45th annual World Press Photo of the Year contest by 4,171 photographers from 123 countries.

Minister killed in plot

KABUL—Prime Minister Hamid Karzai blamed senior government officials motivated by a long-standing feud for the brutal slaying of Afghanistan's aviation minister—killed by a mob in the worst violence in the capital since his government took power.

Three people were arrested and three others were being sought Friday in Saudi Arabia. The alleged conspirators included officials in the intelligence service, justice ministry and defense ministry, said Karzai's information minister, Abdul Rahim Makhdoom.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to turn over the suspects, a senior official at US President George W. Bush's administration said. "Mister Karzai has asked the Saudis for the return of those people immediately. And the Saudis have agreed to do so," said Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy to Afghanistan, speaking in an interview on PBS television.

The aviation and tourism minister, Abdul Rahman, a supporter of the exiled king, was killed Thursday in what witnesses said was a mob attack on his plane at Kabul's airport by pilgrims angry over travel delays to Saudi Arabia for the annual Haj, or Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca. Witnesses and officials said the pilgrims beat Rahman and tossed his body to the tarmac.

But Karzai said the killing had "nothing to do with" the pilgrims.

"He was killed by people who planned it," Karzai told reporters at a hastily called news conference. "We are asking the Saudis to arrest them and bring them back. . . . We will try them. We will put them behind bars."

It was unclear whether the prime minister was suggesting that officials incited the mob or whether pilgrims gave cover to attackers.

In Washington, a senior state department official gave a different account of the killing, saying the airport riot was spontaneous. The crowd became ill-tempered after waiting for two days for documents from Saudi Arabia, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The assault occurred, he said, after the crowd learned Rahman's plane was leaving.

The official said Rahman was stabbed and not beaten, and acknowledged the man responsible for the alleged stabbing may have had political motives. Asked to explain the differing versions, the official allowed for the possibility that Karzai may have information not available in state department channels.

At the White House, press secretary Ari Fleischer said Bush deplores the killing. "It's another reminder of the horrors Afghanistan went through, and why winning the war on terrorism is so important," he said. Fleischer added that Saudi Arabia expressed a willingness to cooperate with the interim Afghan government.

Rahman was going to New Delhi, India, with a delegation on government business. Some witnesses said the trouble started when rumors spread that the pilgrims' journey would be delayed because Rahman was using their plane.

The killing raised fears over the ability of Karzai's government to keep public order in post-Taliban Afghanistan. And Karzai's comments suggested a darker problem: that factional divisions within his interim administration were growing violent.

Makhdoom announced the names of five men wanted in the slaying. Government-run Kabul TV said six men were accused of playing some role in the "assassination" of Rahman.

The three believed to have left with pilgrims on flights for Saudi Arabia were identified as Gen. Abdullah Jan Tawhidi, the deputy intelligence chief; Gen. Kalandar Beg, deputy of the technical office of the Defense Ministry; and a Justice Ministry official identified only as Halim. ***AP***

Milosevic demands Clinton, other leaders as witnesses

THE HAGUE—Slobodan Milosevic on Friday called Bill Clinton and other Western leaders to testify at his war crimes trial as he again went on the offensive over the West's "grave crimes" in Yugoslavia.

Outlining his defense at the historic trial, the former Yugoslav president presented scores of photographs of burnt corpses, slain children, razed homes and bombed bridges that he said Nato targeted during its 1999 war against Yugoslavia.

"Those are the crimes that should be tried in Yugoslavia and not the ones that you say were committed by the Serbs," Milosevic said on the second day of his defense before the UN tribunal.

Milosevic called on a number of officials, including the former US president, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and others to take the stand.

He also said he would summon US officials with whom he negotiated the Dayton peace accord that ended the Bosnian and Croatian wars in 1995.

The 60-year-old former Serb nationalist is on trial before a UN tribunal in The Hague for genocide and crimes against humanity in the 1990s wars, including a third in Kosovo in 1998-99, that left hundreds of thousands dead and millions homeless.

In a long speech about Kosovo, Milosevic accused the United States of sponsoring ethnic Albanian "terrorists" who fought Serb forces and denounced what he termed Washington's "double-standard" on fighting terrorism.

"While the USA in Afghanistan is radically settling its account with terrorism, in Kosovo and other regions throughout the world, they are making use of terrorism as an effective weapon, an effective means in their strategy of domination," Milosevic said.

Milosevic has sought to turn the tables on Nato and the West to show they were the true war criminals and should be in the dock instead.

On Friday, Milosevic for the first time addressed the prosecution's core argument that he used mass murder, persecution, torture and other atrocities to achieve his goal of an ethnically pure Greater Serbia. ***AFP***

SGO

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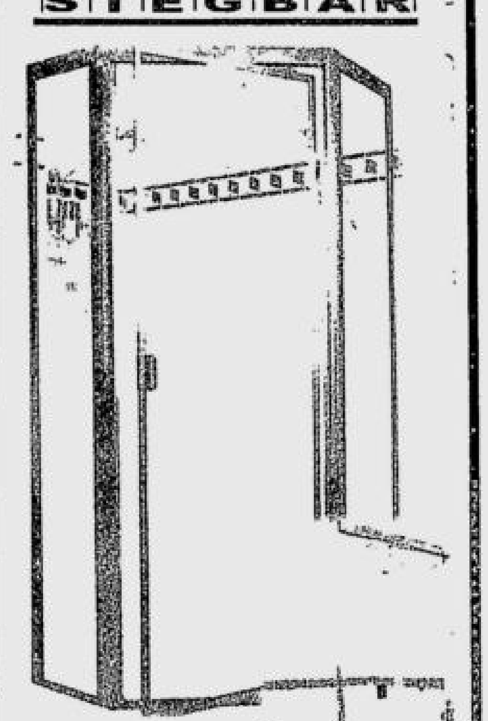

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Term		12	18	24	36	48	60
D/P	Net D/P	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly
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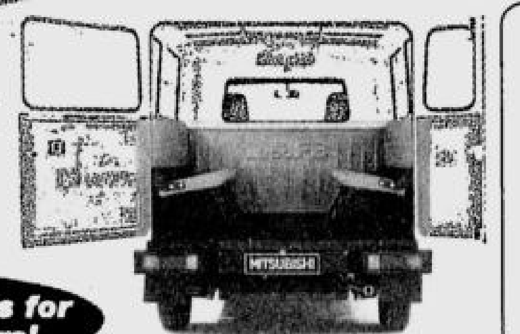

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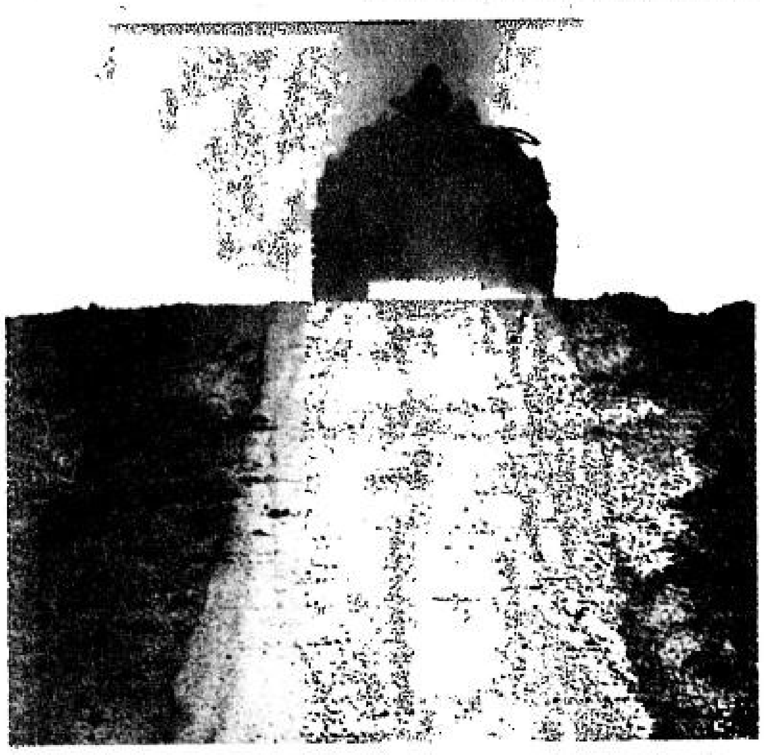
Israelis strike hard at Gaza after losing commander, tank



AN ISRAELI tank drives on the road leading from the Jewish Netzarim settlement in the Gaza Strip toward Israel Feb. 15 in the area where a bomb exploded close to an Israeli tank, killing three soldiers the night before. REUTERS

JERUSALEM—The Israeli Army, stung by the first-ever destruction of a crack battle tank and the death of one of its elite commanders in the West Bank, hit back hard killing a Palestinian policeman and wounding 30 people in F-16 strikes on the northern Gaza Strip.

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Israeli military sources said Lt. Col. Eyal Weiss, 34, head of the elite Duvdevan undercover unit, died when a wall damaged by Israeli forces collapsed on him in the village of Saida, near Tulkarem in the northern West Bank.

But the radical Islamic Jihad group said its military arm, the al-Qods Brigades, killed Weiss during a dawn Israeli incursion Friday in Saida to hunt for militants.

The group said one of its members, Anwar Abdel Ghani, was "liquidated" by the Army during the operation, adding that Weiss's killing will show "the leaders of the criminal enemy that their invasion of our cities and villages will not be a pleasant journey."

Israeli public radio added three Islamic Jihad members had been arrested in Saida and another village raided by troops near Jenin, also in the northern West Bank.

Israeli warplanes later raided the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza, firing three rockets on the public security headquarters. Palestinian security officer Abdel-Salam Yunis was found dead under the rubble and 30 others, civilians and policemen, were wounded in the strike.

The deaths brought to 1,208 the number of people killed in the 16-month-old intifada, or Palestinian uprising, including 924 Palestinians and 262 Israelis.

The strikes came less than a day after three crewmen of an Israel Merkava tank were killed and a fourth was wounded when it was blown up in the Gaza Strip on its way to the scene of an earlier blast.

The Al-Nasser Saladin Group, linked to the Popular Resistance Committees in Palestine, claimed the attack as a reprisal for the killing of five Palestinian policemen in Israeli incursions in the Gaza Strip Tuesday and Wednesday.

Israeli forces had kept up the pressure in the Gaza Strip throughout the day, sending tanks and troops back into the town of Beit Hanoun, which they had occupied on Wednesday.

Tanks, armored bulldozers and jeeps also rolled into several other towns, including a civilian area south of Gaza City where they destroyed several houses and farmland.

In signs of growing tension among Palestinians, meanwhile, hundreds of angry people hurled stones at the offices of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

The demonstrators, claiming to represent two radical Palestinian groups and asking for the release of detained militants, were kept back by a cordon of riot police in full gear.

The violence has dealt another blow to the European Union's latest peace efforts to the region, after EU foreign ministers meeting in Spain last weekend pledged to re-animate the peace process. *AFP*

Bush names Nevada as nuclear waste site

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Friday chose Nevada's remote Yucca Mountain as the site for a facility to store 70,000 tons of nuclear waste, prompting howls of protest and setting off a pitched battle with the state likely to end up in Congress.

"I consider the Yucca Mountain site qualified for application for a construction authorization for a repository," Bush told leaders of Congress in a letter informing them of his decision. "Therefore, I now recommend the Yucca Mountain site for this purpose."

Critics

Critics of the plan, including Nevada politicians, worry that radioactive material might seep into the ground, posing health risks for residents, and cite the risks of transporting nuclear waste over great distances.

The site in the Nevada desert 140 km from Las Vegas would store 70,000 tons of radioactive material from the nation's 103 nuclear power plants for an estimated 10,000 years.

Nevada Gov. Kenny Guinn, a Republican, said he was "outraged . . . that this decision would go forward with so many unanswered questions."

In a statement, Guinn pledged to "exhaust every option and press our legal case to the limit." Nevada has raised a warchest of $5.4 million to fight the decision.

Nevada Democratic Sen. Harry Reid reacted strongly against the decision, saying Bush "betrayed our trust" by breaking a campaign promise not to proceed without sound scientific study.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer disputed the charge, saying Bush's decision "is based on sound science" and came after decades of scientific study and a determination by Energy Secretary Spence Abraham that the site can be safely used.

Warning

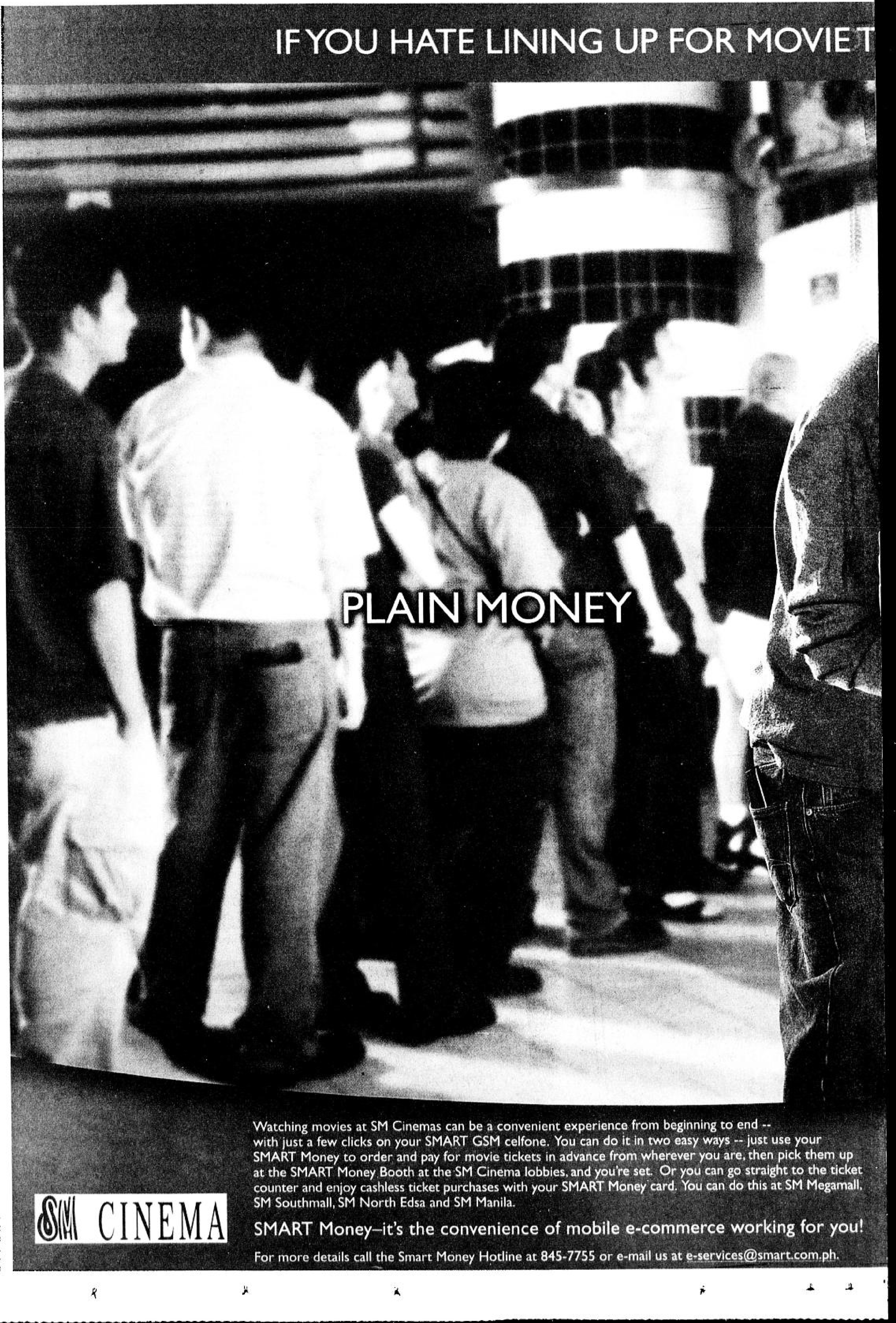
Reid warned the plan would require the equivalent of 100,000 nuclear waste-laden trucks or 20,000 rail cars moving through 43 states from existing storage sites to Nevada.

"President Bush has dropped the equivalent of 100,000 dirty bombs on America," Reid said.

Abraham replied: "The waste is already closer to the people every day of the week than it is moving past the community for five or ten minutes. It's going to be transported anyway."

By law, Nevada's state government has the right to reject Bush's decision. The battle would then end up in Congress, where a simple majority vote would decide the case within 90 days, no filibuster allowed.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission must also approve a license for the site, which would likely face legal challenges. *Reuters*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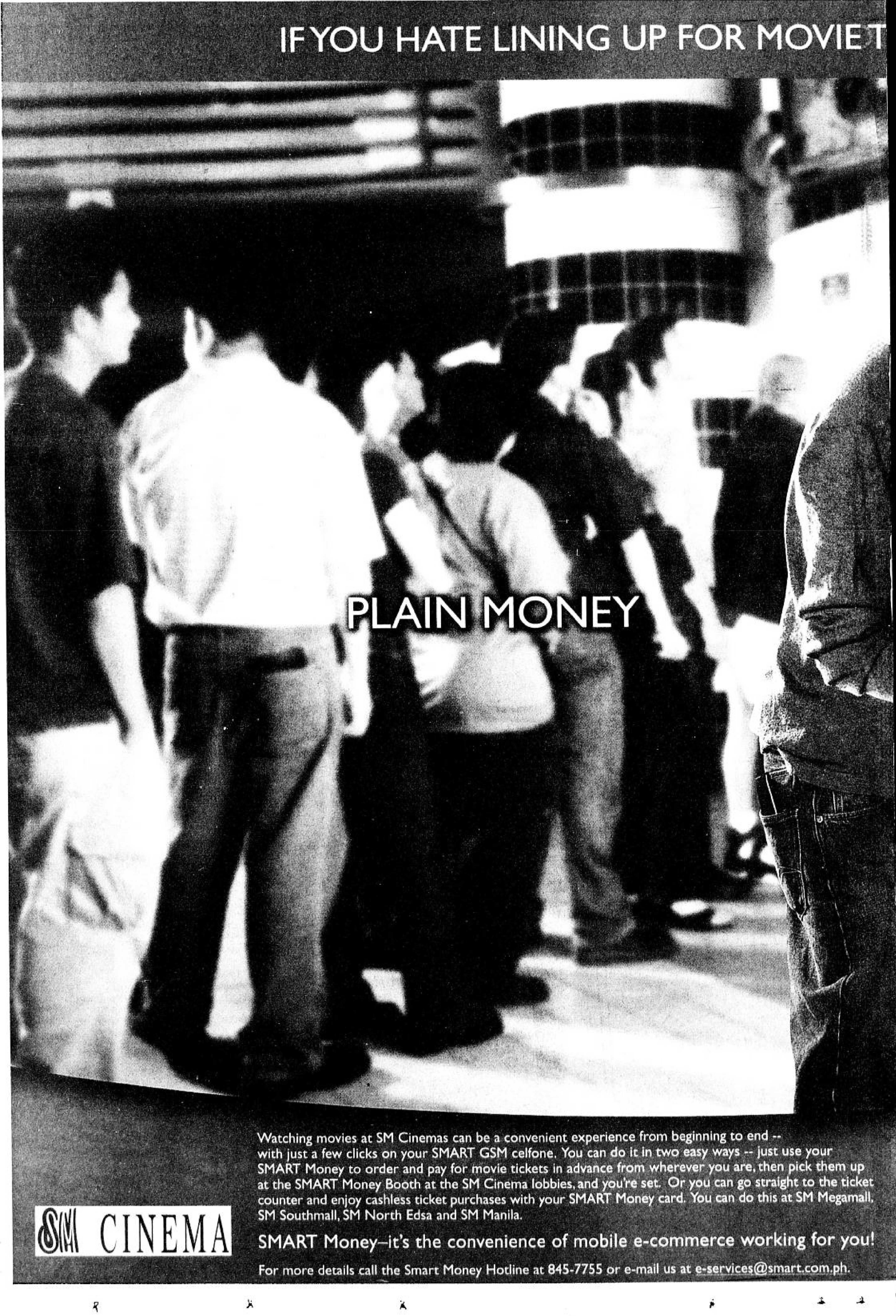

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PRINCESS MARGARET JOINS FATHER

Two military knights guard the coffin of Princess Margaret before her funeral in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Feb. 15. Princess Margaret will have her final resting place close to her beloved father King George VI, when her ashes are placed in St. George's Chapel.

US ready to attack Iraq —when the time is right

WASHINGTON—The United States has signaled its determination to kick Iraqi President Saddam Hussein out of power, but it has yet to find allies or set a date for mounting an eventual military operation against Baghdad.

Alternating between war rhetoric and caution, the administration of US President George W. Bush has said it would remain prudent and patient with regard to Iraq but would nonetheless keep all of its options open, as national security adviser Condoleezza Rice noted Thursday.

Secretary of State Colin Powell said Thursday that Washington was determined to topple Saddam and would act alone if necessary to change the regime in Baghdad.

Bush, for his part, has branded Iraq part of an "axis of evil," along with Iran and North Korea, that must forcibly be prevented from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

And US Vice President Dick Cheney said Friday that the American people and the international community would support "aggressive" military action against Iraq.

"We don't talk about prospective future actions, but I think if aggressive action is required, I would anticipate there would be the appropriate support for that, both from the American people and the international community," Cheney said during an appearance at the Council on foreign relations.

Cheney is to travel next month to nine moderate Arab countries and to London and Ankara to discuss security in the Gulf region.

"After numerous debates within the administration, several indicators show that there are plans underway for a military operation," said Mary Jane Deeb, a Middle East expert at Washington's American University.

The United States' number-one priority is to get Saddam to allow international weapons inspectors—kicked out of the country in 1998—to return to Iraq, to ensure that Baghdad is not developing nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction.

"If inspectors return to Iraq, it would be more difficult to justify an attack. On the other hand, if Baghdad continues to refuse, it will appear as though it has something to hide" and will offer pretty strong justification for those calling for strikes in the interest of international security, Deeb said.

Military experts cited by various media outlets have estimated that it would take between 50,000 and 200,000 troops to conduct the operation against Iraq, which could be launched from Kuwait, Turkey or Saudi Arabia. ***AFP***

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To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN, and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.
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US climate plan draws frosty response

BRUSSELS—US President George W. Bush's new climate strategy met a frosty response around the world on Friday, with one EU politician questioning the morality of a plan that will let US greenhouse gas emissions rise.

Bush offered incentives to firms for voluntarily slowing the rise in heat-trapping gas emissions blamed for global warming, having rejected the mandatory reductions demanded by the 1997 Kyoto Treaty which he said would harm the US economy.

"It's really shocking . . . it's a bit like saying: 'wealth is for us today in 2002 and we will leave the problems for our children or for people in Africa or Asia,'" said Belgium's Green Party Energy Minister Olivier Deleuze.

Deleuze led the European Union delegation at talks last year which secured support from most of the rest of the world to push on with Kyoto without the United States.

"It's a policy that's not very moral, I feel," he told Belgian television channel RTBF.

Trapping heat

Many scientists say gas emissions—particularly carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels—are trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere, risking massive climate changes that could lead to disastrous floods and droughts.

The United States is by far the biggest polluter, generating roughly a quarter of the world's man-made "greenhouse gases."

The Bush plan seeks to cut emissions of three of the worst air pollutants—but not carbon dioxide—by setting limits, assigning permits for each ton of pollution, and allowing firms to trade them in what the White House called a "cap and trade" system.

Greenpeace calculated that the policies would allow US emissions to rise 29 percent above 1990 levels by the end of the decade.

Analysts said the Bush plan was unlikely to break the European Union-led coalition of countries determined to push ahead with Kyoto with or without the United States.

"I don't think that the Bush plan is either substantial enough in terms of emissions cuts or international enough to offer an alternative to wavering countries like Japan where there is political momentum behind ratification," Thomas Legge of the Center for European Policy Studies think-tank said.

German Environment Minister Juergen Trittin echoed the sentiment of many pro-Kyoto countries by welcoming the long-awaited announcement of a US policy on global warming, but decrying its content.

"I welcome the fact that with this program President Bush has recognized the need for measures to tackle climate change; however at first glance the contents look disappointing," he said. ***Reuters***

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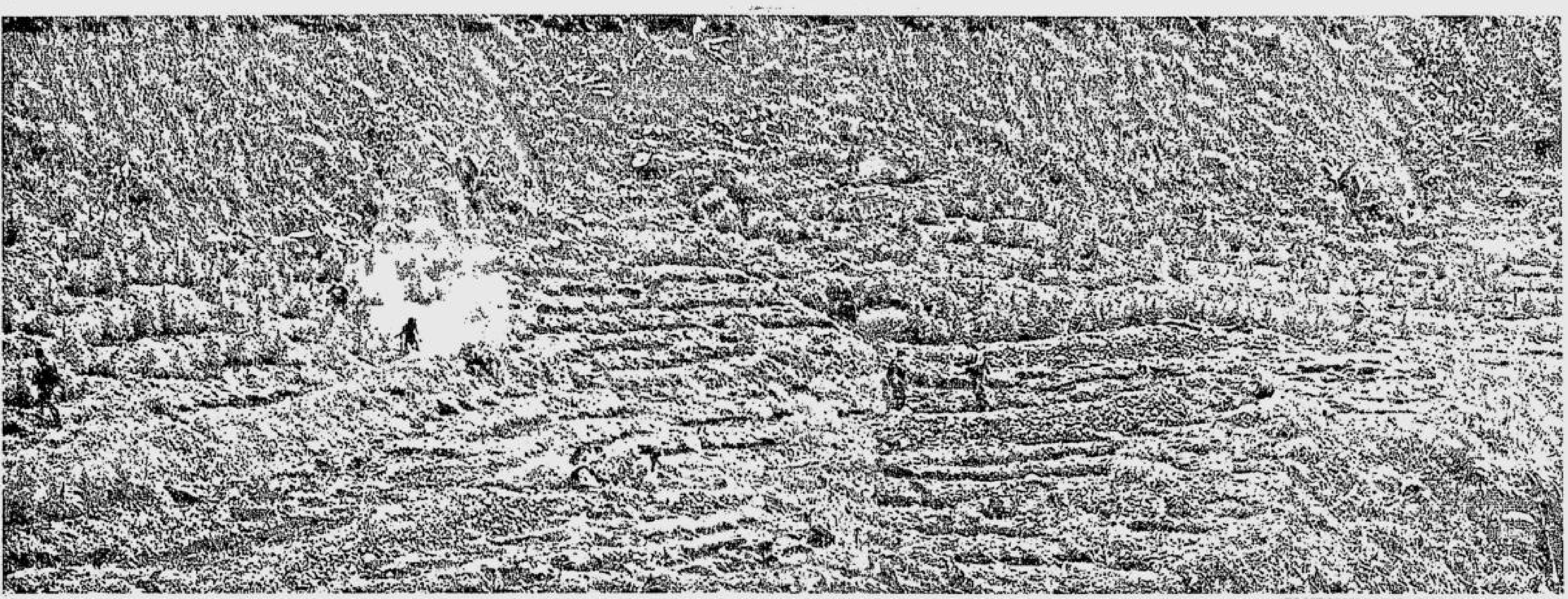

TOOTS SOBERANO/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

MARIJUANA MOUNTAIN
Government troops uproot some P56.7-million worth of marijuana plants from a six-hectare area on a mountain slope in Sitios Nacneng and Beckes in Barangay Takadang, Kibungan town in Benguet.

RP, US troops want more training

Officers declare success of Balance Piston war exercises

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

FORT MAGSAYSAY, Nueva Ecija—While anti-war activists want to see an end to all RP-US war games, Filipino and American troops are clamoring for more of these.

Balance Piston, the first of 15 joint military exercises scheduled his year, concluded here Friday on such a note. This exercise engaged 125 Filipino Scout Rangers and 36 American counterparts.

"Definitely, we need more of these training exercises," said Philippine Army Maj. Teodoro Llamas.

In the last two years, Llamas had participated as one of the planners in at least six Balance Piston exercises.

"It is enhancing the professionalism of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. It is giving us opportunities to learn (from our foreign counterparts)," Llamas told the INQUIRER after Piston's closing ceremony at the Special Operations Command Center here.

The Philippine Army also holds special operations training with troops in Malaysia and Australia.

"We want to learn some more," he said, after mulling over, and brushing aside, protests by militant Filipinos about such training.

Joint training, Llamas emphasized, is a step to "going global."

"If civilian entities are spending for a lot of training to be able to compete in the world market, why can't they (the US military) volunteer to come and train us?" he asked.

"We might be left behind," he said.

Llamas, without going into the details of the training, said it was simply about "seeing how the Americans do it and showing how we do it."

"*Parang* American *adobo* at Pinoy *adobo*, *iba lang ang paraan ng pagluluto* (It's like American adobo or Filipino adobo, only the type of cooking is different)," he said.

US Maj. Kevin Colyer, mission commander of Balance Piston, has learned to say in Filipino what has transpired throughout the four-week training.

"*Ang pagpapraktis at pagtuturo natin ay naging matagumpay* (Our practice and teaching have been successful,)" he said to the applause of his own troops and those of Llamas.

Colyer said his troops learned much from Filipino soldiers. And they built a lot of camaraderie.

On Friday, they spent the closing ceremony posing before the cameras for photographs.

What was supposed to be boodle fight became a feast of *adobong manok, pansit, torta* and rice laced with a lot of *sili*. Those were eaten in the boodle fashion: eating with bare hands.

Llamas and several other special troops said they have also developed friendship with their American counterparts, especially those who have come back time and again to join the training.

Lt. Col. Jose Mabanta, chief of the Army's public affairs office, said Balance Piston, although smaller when compared to the Balikatan exercise in Mindanao, is "as important and as comprehensive as the Balikatan."

Colyer said his contingent was not heading for Mindanao where the Balikatan exercises started this week. "Back to our home units, many in Okinawa (Japan)," he said.

Chinoy traders worry about kidnap rash

ANGELES CITY—Chinese-Filipino traders are worried about the rising cases of kidnapping, armed robberies and other crimes in this city.

A member of the Chinese-Filipino business community here said the recent abduction of Ricardo Tan, owner of Jenra mall, and Amelita Yang-Cesar, owner of NC Poultry Farm, made the businessmen in this city "nervous."

The source said local Chinese-Filipino businessmen are not used to kidnappings and the thought that they could be the next victims "is enough to give them sleepless nights."

During the Philippine National Police anniversary celebration at Camp Olivas on Wednesday, Director General Leandro Mendoza, PNP chief, admitted that kidnap-for-ransom gangs have shifted their operations to the provinces.

Sources said Tan's family reportedly paid P6 million for his release, while Yang-Cesar's abductors reportedly asked for P800,000.

Even Mayor Carmelo Lazatin said the families of the two alleged kidnap victims did not seek the city government's help. He said he learned about Tan's kidnapping only from friends.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director, said his office was implementing an "intensified police visibility campaign" and measures to stop kidnap-for-ransom gangs.

In Pangasinan, police officials said two more big-time syndicates involved in robbery, holdup and kidnapping incidents are operating in the province and nearby areas.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza, Pangasinan police director, said while the two syndicates, which he did not name, do not pose serious threats to the peace and order situation in the province, "there are things to be done" to finally rid Pangasinan of crime syndicates. ***Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

'Lumads' selling land to big mining firms

By Ferdinand O. Zuasola
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BOSTON, Davao Oriental—Members of indigenous communities here are flocking to the offices of multinational mining firms that have offered to pay hefty sums for their ancestral land.

In the capital town of Mati alone, thousands of Mandayas are hailing the entry of the mining firms in their land, covering some 20,000 hectares, as the answer to their extreme poverty.

The Mandayas here are offering their property at a price of P3 million for every 20 hectares.

Environment and natural resources officer Gilbert Pajo said the *lumads* wanted cash for their land.

"Based on reports that reached my office, small-scale miners in Davao Oriental, most of whom are Mandaya natives, are selling their mining rights to multinational mining companies," Pajo said.

"They must have been lured by big money offered by mining companies. Besides, they are ill equipped to make their small-scale mining profitable," he added.

Germenia Macuntang, one of those selling land, said although they wanted to hold on to their possession, poverty has forced them to sell.

"Of course, we value our land, but we can no longer live by copra alone, which is our main source of living, because of its very low price. We were told that mining companies are willing to buy it because it is rich in mineral resources.

"Many of my fellow tribesmen had already sold their land to mining companies and they made big money," Macuntang said in the vernacular.

Anastacio Mahinding, another *lumad*, said even the presence of gold in their land failed to stop people from selling.

"Our land is a gold-rush area, but we don't have capital to venture into small-scale mining. We don't mind selling them (at) a very good price," Mahinding said.

BOLINAO RECOVERY PLAN

Fish pen operations suspended

BOLINAO, Pangasinan—The local government has suspended the aquaculture operations in the town after last week's massive fish kill that caused losses amounting to P600 million.

Mayor Jesus Celeste said the operations of fish pens and cages were suspended to give the town's waters a chance to recover from the pollution caused by the industry.

Celeste, during the "*bangus* (milkfish) festival" held on Tuesday, said the town's coastal development plan will be reviewed and possibly revised to suit modern aquaculture technology.

"We are phasing out the fish pens and we will study how many fish cages should be left. We are also suspending the issuance of permits (for fish culture operation)," Celeste, whose family owns fish pens and cages, said.

The INQUIRER, however, received reports that despite Celeste's orders, some big-time fish cage operators in the town were restocking.

Provincial Administrator Virgilio Solis Jr., who represented the provincial government during the festival, urged the aquaculture operators not to be "selfish" but consider the effects of an uncontrolled aquaculture industry on the town's fishing grounds.

"Regulation must not come from above. It must come from us because if we kill the sea, we end up losing. Our children and our town will suffer," Solis, whose fish cages were also affected by the fish kill, said.

He said he has dismantled his six fish pens "because of the structures' detrimental effects on the sea."

He called on other fish pen owners to voluntarily dismantle their fish structures.

Fish pens are considered more pollutive than fish cages because pollutants, such as unconsumed fish feeds, settle at the sea floor. Cages, on the other hand, trap pollutants that can later be removed.

"Let us ask ourselves, 'How many fish cages should I own? Should I feed this much (*bangus*)? Should I regulate (my operations) so that there will be more open spaces (in the sea)?'" Solis said.

The Pangasinan government, the Bolinao municipal government and the fishermen association of the town staged the *bangus* festival to disprove reports that *bangus* and shellfish gathered from the town are not safe to eat.

But after admitting that the fish kill could be partly their fault, Celeste and Elias Quisay, president of the Bolinao Fishermen's Association, also blamed the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute for the loss of their *bangus* market. ***Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

PMA alumni homecoming also a family affair

PMA upperclassmen offer handshakes to newly recognized cadets of Sandigan Class 2005.

TOOTS SOBERANO

By Gobleth Moulic
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—When graduates of the Philippine Military Academy return to their alma mater today, it will not be just another alumni homecoming for this 104-year-old institution.

At least for some, it will also be a typical family affair.

Apart from politicians adopted by various PMA classes expected to grace the homecoming, also attending are fathers and sons, as well as brothers, who have graduated from the academy.

Among the more prominent father-and-son alumni are former executive secretary Renato de Villa (1957) and his son Patrick (1994); retired Gen. Fortunato Abat (1951) and his sons, Victor (1977) and the late Tito Fortunato (1978); and the late Job Mayo Sr. (1940) and his sons, the late Job Jr. (1963) and Victor (1966).

The famous alumni who rose from the ranks and later became senators were Bartolome Cabangbang (1940), Eleuterio Adevoso (1944), Rodolfo Biazon (1961), and *mistahs* Gregorio Honasan and Panfilo Lacson, former Philippine National Police chief (1971).

More popular than his father Romeo (1943), Senator Honasan received the Ten Outstanding Young Men award for military service in 1985 and the distinguished conduct star for his role in the 1986 Edsa Revolution.

The academy is also expecting the Abadia brothers--Loven (1960), former Air Force commanding general, and Lisandro (1962), former Armed Forces chief of staff.

Ilocos' favorite sons are the Cimatu brothers. Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu (1970) is the Southern Command chief who is leading the all-out war against the Abu Sayyaf in Mindanao. His younger brother, Supt. Fidel Cimatu (1977), is the police director of Ilocos Sur.

Their eldest brother, the late Dante (1968), was Philippine Constabulary chief in Bataan until 1970 when he died in a road accident.

According to the Academy Scribe, there were only two families--Dumlao and Ecarma--who have held the distinction of passing on their legacy in the military training school to three generations.

Armando Dumlao (1917) belonged to the first classes of the PMA. His descendants were Jose (1951) and Paulino (1986).

The first generation PMAer in the Ecarma family was Natalio (1923). More than 30 years later, his descendants, Rodolfo and Renato, graduated from the academy in 1954 and 1955, respectively. The third generation member was Natalino Ecarma (1981).

Not to be outdone are the Brawner brothers, one of Baguio's favorite sons. They are among the families with the most number of members who are PMA graduates. The brothers are Felix (1957), Libbie (1967), Franklin (1971) and Percy (1972).

The other sibling graduates of the long gray line are the Arevalos, Manlongats, Andayas, Maligaligs, Regises, Villacortes and Vinoyas.

ROUNDUP

Town treasurer shot dead

LUPON, Davao Oriental—A lone gunman shot and killed the municipal treasurer here while the victim was on his way home on Friday evening. Maximo Tanzo, 64, was boarding a bus for Mati town when the suspect shot him with a .45 caliber pistol. Donna Tanzo, daughter of the victim, said the assailant took a still undetermined amount of checks from the treasurer. Supt. Limpasan Urlong, deputy provincial police chief, said they were not ruling out the angle of robbery. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

4 bus robbers arrested

CAMP GENERAL ALEJO SANTOS, Bulacan—Police arrested four suspected bus robbers at Barangay Bulihan in Malolos town on Wednesday. Police identified the suspects as Rolando Magayano, 27; Gilbert Macarubboc, 26; Sonny Dioso, 27; and Marlon Macarubboc, 20. Senior Supt. Edgrado Acuña, Bulacan police director, said the suspects were behind the series of robbery and holdup incidents involving passenger buses plying the North Luzon Expressway in Bulacan. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Migrants remembered

SAN PABLO CITY—Care for Filipino migrants and itinerant people, including stranded Overseas Filipino Workers in various parts of the world, will be the focus of the celebration today of the 16th National Migrants' Sunday by the Catholic Church all over the country. The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People (ECMI) said simultaneous activities will be held in various dioceses through ECMI regional centers in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. ***Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

NPA kills cop

DARAGA, Albay—A suspected New People's Army hit squad Wednesday killed PO3 Joseph Leona in broad daylight and in front of some onlookers here. Leona, 35, a native of Barangay Villahermosa here and assigned in Bulusan, Sorsogon, died on the spot from 17 gunshots fired pointblank. Police investigators found 23 empty .9 mm and .45-caliber shells in the crime scene. Daraga town chief of police Senior Insp. Gene Molto said Leona was inside the cockpit in Barangay Anislag here when four young gunmen shot him and divested him of his service pistol and wallet before casually leaving the scene. ***Roly Embile, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

HOUSE INQUIRY

Customs execs linked to ship's escape

CEBU CITY—A member of the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Service (CIIS) of the Cebu port disclosed that a cargo vessel carrying 18,000 sacks of smuggled rice was allowed to escape allegedly on orders from higher customs officials.

Special agent Ely Gealan made this revelation during a congressional inquiry conducted by the House committee on good government at the CAP building here on Friday.

Gealan said there was a go-signal to allow the MV Great Faith to escape on Dec. 24 last year. The ship was seized by Customs after it was found to be loaded with P18 million worth of suspected smuggled rice.

"I am just an ordinary employee. I do not authorize the release of the ship. It's our officials who do," he said in Cebuano.

His revelation prompted the panel to go into an executive session, but not before Cebu Rep. Ace Durano, vice committee chair, asked Gealan again if he was willing to make a disclosure. Gealan agreed.

Durano assured the Customs agent that the committee will protect him if he cooperates. The body went into an executive session at about 4 p.m. and adjourned an hour later.

The congressional hearing was conducted to look into the series of smuggling cases that rocked the city last year. Friday's inquiry zeroed in on the disappearance of the cargo vessel.

Even as the case of the vanishing ship and cargo could be explained, Customs officials announced the loss of 3,000 sacks of smuggled rice from the MV Brighton and another 15,000 sacks of rice from the MV Panda. Total revenue losses were about P36 million.

The rash of smuggling cases triggered the relief of top customs officials, including Cebu port collector Roberto Sacramento, his deputy Santiago Maravillas and Customs Police district commander Ronald Pasion and his men.

Outgoing Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva, who attended the hearing, was asked why no charges were filed against 10 people identified by customs investigators as liable for the Great Faith's disappearance.

Among those identified were Sacramento, Maravillas and Gealan.

Villanueva was criticized by Davao City Rep. Ruy Elias Lopez, House committee chair on good government, for giving an evasive response.

Gealan led the Customs police team that ran after the Great Faith near the channel in Lapulapu and Mandaue cities when it escaped under Customs watch. The team used a patrol boat to chase the vessel but ran out of fuel. ***Malou Guazon-Apalisok, PDI Visayas Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Bicol Region, Visayas and Mindanao will continue to experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI32° Lo1[illegible]
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 10°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 28° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 19°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 18°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 29° Lo 17°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 30° Lo 19°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 28°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 27° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/02/17/02

Murder suspect stabs witness in courtroom

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Pandemonium broke out inside a courtroom here on Friday after a murder suspect stabbed a witness who was about to testify against him.

Beltran Somblingo, 30, of Barangay Barasan Este, Sta. Barbara, Iloilo, was about to take the witness stand when Edgar Susbilla rose from his seat, ran toward him and stabbed him in the abdomen and the left arm.

Somblingo was brought to the West Visayas State University Hospital. He was declared out of danger.

Susbilla was immediately subdued by his escorts, who seized a seven-inch knife from him.

Susbilla, in his 20s and native of Sta. Barbara town, was one of six accused in murder, frustrated murder and attempted murder cases filed by Somblingo's family before Judge Adriano Savillo of the Regional Trial Court Branch 30.

The other accused were Jerry Suficiencia, Randy Suficiencia, Johnny Suficiencia, Martin Subarba and Cornelio Somcio Jr.

The six were accused of killing Somblingo's brother Godofredo and the wounding of Godofredo's wife Lalilia and daughters, Glenda and Glesel, at Barasan Este, Sta. Barbara town on July 10, 2000.

Susbilla, clad in an inmate's orange uniform, was seated against the wall, about four meters away from Somblingo.

Although handcuffed to the left hand of Somcio, he was able to stage the attack.

A court employee said Susbilla might have gotten the knife from one of the persons he met on the way to the third floor where the RTC Branch 30 is.

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel ◆ Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Children come of age in fight for their rights

CHILDREN take a stand on many issues affecting them.

PHOTOS BY DAVID LIBAN/WORLD VISION DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

By Maria Cecil Laguardia

FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD Marlon Makilan traveled all the way from Malungon in Sarangani to Cebu City to attend the 2nd Children Sector General Assembly of the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) on Jan. 26-27.

Marlon studies at the Malalag-Cogon Elementary School and is the president of the Samahan ng mga Batang Manggagawa (SBM), a youth organization supported by the Kamalayan Development Foundation (KDF).

A veteran worker of a sugarcane plantation in their area since he was 8 years old, Marlon says he harvests 50 bundles (30 sticks each) daily and earns P1 per bundle. But he believes children like him have no place in the field but inside the classrooms.

Marlon does not only worry about the plight of thousands of sugarcane child workers but also those working in the asparagus plantations in Sarangani and South Cotabato.

His mission dwarfs his height of less than 4 feet.

Two other Mindanao delegates—Rengie Ono, 14, of Magsaysay, Davao del Sur, and Leslie Elevado, 13, of Makilala, Cotabato—are standing up against the hapless conditions of fellow children working in rubber plantations in their hometowns.

Aside from the backbreaking work, they fear for their health because of the chemicals being used.

Marlon, Rengie and Leslie joined 51 other children from other provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao in discussing their rights and push for issues crucial to their future. They are a contingent with an urgent agenda to accomplish.

"It feels great to monitor the kids' growth each year and see them get concerned and involved on many social issues in society," Aimy Velicaria-Gabriel, World Vision's program coordinator on "Expanding Children's Participation on Social Reforms (ECPSR)," says.

A glimpse at the convention hall would seem that they were having a party; they were not. But if the assembly could be regarded a celebration of children's coming of age, yes they were.

Apart from the plenary sessions, they were there to enjoy each other's company, share experiences and learn about what is happening with children in other corners of the country.

Before, assemblies were something for the old folks. Now, being members of the NAPC's "Children Sector" enabled them to chart their own journey and make their presence count in the sea of formidable adults.

In the Cebu City gathering, the children decided that it was time to take charge of matters like child abuse and exploitation, child labor, drug addiction, proliferation of video *karera* and "Counterstrike" computer games, the recruitment of children in armed conflicts and countless other issues.

During the assembly, which happens every three years, delegates from different NGOs elect 15 council members. The seats were increased to 25 this year. The council meets quarterly and spearheads the campaign for reforms among the children sector.

New ideas

In between animated discussions, the participants danced away their tiredness from travel, gyrating to the beat of pop hit "Buttercup" and "Sundance," and laughed with youthful vigor at jokes cracked by facilitators.

The assembly was also a reservoir of new ideas. The children reinvented the ways of clapping—from rain clap to beautiful clap, to train and flash claps. Icebreakers are as unusual and weird as "*Nasunog ang Balay ni Superman*" (Superman's house was on fire) and "Shagiddy Shagiddy Sha Po Po."

Policies being discussed were read like "bees," in whispers, "*boses-baboy*" (oinks), and in stilted and cat-like voices. How can one miss that? This was one assembly that was hands-down child-friendly.

In his welcome speech, Mayor Thomas Osmeña of Cebu City lauded the gathering of children leaders because, finally, they are "representing their own" sector. Gone are the days of "*bata lang yan* (he's just a kid)" or "*saba diha, dili manghilabot* (shut up, don't meddle)" because children are now encouraged to ask questions and actively participate in things concerning them.

Osmeña urged the children to become leaders who "builds, not destroys," and who does not just talk articulately but "knows how to listen well."

His dream is for children to exercise "their right to ask questions" to the fullest because he has observed that "Filipinos grow up afraid of asking questions."

The message has already become a reality. The 13 outgoing council members of the sector representing the country's regions from as far as Basilan and Tawi-Tawi have matured considerably in terms of wisdom and attitude toward the end of their three-year term.

They can talk about the hard facts of child labor, exploitation, armed-conflict and the urgency to act on them like they're running out of time.

Saturnina Hamili, the assembly chairperson and national director of the Christian Children's Fund (CCF), praised the children because they have "fought a good fight" during their term and declared them "champions of their sectoral group."

"*Bata pa man kayo ay nakaya ninyong gampanan ang dapat gawin bilang* sectoral representatives (Young as you are, you have done what was expected of sectoral representatives)," she said.

Role models

One can hardly imagine teener Febie Rose Alberando of Misamis Occidental talk about knowing how to "set priorities," feel a "sense of responsibility" and observe "time management." But she does, with uncanny candor and charisma unlikely for one as young as her.

Teresita Quintos-Deles, NAPC secretary and lead convenor, assured the children that they are setting good examples to others, even to the adults "*na maraming natututunan sa inyo* (who learned a lot from you)."

A seasoned NGO person and civil society advocate "for three decades," she advised the children to be tough and determined as "the world has become more complex and not as green and abundant as it used to be."

She dared them to face the world, "take it as your own, and shape it as you wish."

Another council member believes it was one of the "best things that ever happened to me."

Carmen Flores of Pasay City moves from tough talk to teen lingo with such ease that she kept the audience in rapt attention. Watch her go places and give Aiza Seguerra a run for her fame.

Manny Tumalon of Basilan shares the annual peace festivals in his province where many groups, agencies and organizations talk about peace and order. He is bothered about the Abu Sayyaf's hostage-taking in his place, which puts many children in danger.

Little support

The five-point agenda they are pushing forward are child abuse, education and health, child labor, indigenous children and children in peace and order. Young as they are, these children mean strictly business.

Politicians and local government officials got a beating during the press conference. Children candidly admitted to receiving minimal support from them.

They lauded NGOs like the Plan International, World Vision Development Foundation, Educational Research Development Assistance, CCF, Share a Child Movement, KDF, Lingap Pangkabataan Inc., End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, and the Visayan Forum, and government agencies like the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the NAPC in advancing their cause.

They decry traditional politicians as "*mga* plastic" who are there only during election time when they need the votes and publicity.

Febie Rose said she was saddened that the support of their officials was not that much.

Pedro Ocinar also felt the children's sector is left behind because of so many organizations crowding for attention in Pasay.

John, however, reminded his fellow delegates that they have to show their sincerity, honesty and accomplishments before seeking for support.

Council members

On the last day, the children voted for the 25 new council members from Luzon (nine) Visayas (eight) and Mindanao (eight) and from them, the three sectoral council representatives.

Expectedly, Marlon got the Mindanao seat, while Visayas went to Ma. Corazon Buala of Roxas City's Katin-aran Children's Association and Luzon to Paul Bernard Sumaya of the Samahang Nagkakaisa sa Pagtataguyod ng mga Karapatan ng mga Bata of Tondo, Manila.

The three representatives will be presented to President Macapagal-Arroyo next month. One of them will be chosen sectoral commissioner, replacing outgoing John Paul Claudio.

The election campaign was full of suspense and held sacred like voting for the country's officials. It was the children's early test in the exercise of the right of suffrage, and they passed with flying colors.

As they finalized the issues that will be included for the sectoral agenda, the children proved their mettle in decision-making and determination.

Singing "Children of Yesterday's Dream" to the top of their voices was a fitting finale for the event. The youths have sown the seeds of becoming "we can be what we want for the world to see."

THE CHILD with a mission, Marlon Makilan, prepares for discussion during the 2nd Children Sector General Assembly of the National Anti-Poverty Commission held on Jan. 26-27 in Cebu City.

First Crumb Street: Where criminals dare

By Anthony S. Allada
Digos City

AT first glance, quiet First Crumb Street in Barangay Zone II in Digos City, where people from different economic, political and religious persuasions live, shows no telltale signs of something out of the ordinary.

It, however, stands as mute witness to the arrest of suspected drug peddlers, swindlers and even kidnappers.

A haven of criminals, Chief Insp. Noel Saniel calls this street. The Digos police chief says their records affirm the street's ill repute.

Residents appear unmindful of the goings-on, even the police raids, in the generally middle-class community. They say they do not have to worry so long as they are not involved in crimes committed in their neighborhood.

Police claim that criminality is so rampant there that the people are reluctant to issue statements. This attitude, Saniel says, makes it hard for lawmen to run after felons in the street.

"I am still happy that my personnel don't get tired of conducting operations against the criminals," he says.

Drug pushers

On Feb. 7, 12 people were arrested during a police raid on a suspected drug den on Crumb Street. Among them were Jeffrey Diez, a son of Hagonoy barangay chair Kulas Diez, and Rolly Castillones, a staff member of provincial board member Andres Montejo.

Taken from the suspects were 27 grams of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride), three .38-cal. revolvers and several rounds of bullets, assorted drug paraphernalia, two cellular phones, pornographic video compact discs, P1,480 cash, and a Jianshe motorcycle.

Gov. Renerio Llanos personally led the police operation after the team secured a search warrant from Judge Marivic Daray of the regional trial court's Branch 18. The warrant was addressed to Lucio and Rosalie Olofernes, who were earlier arrested on drug charges.

Saniel says the recent arrests only reflect the growing drug menace in the city. He says the problem has even bred the Digos Death Squad, which is behind the summary executions of suspected pushers and which the police consider another gang of criminals.

Swindlers

On the same day the 12 drug suspects were arrested, an alleged member of a big-time swindling syndicate was also bagged.

The suspect was identified as Celebrado Abellana, 33, a civil engineering graduate, who lives near Sugar Road and First Crumb Street.

Saniel says his men are still conducting surveillance against two other residents of First Crumb Street after they allegedly duped a policeman's sister-in-law on Saturday in Panabo City.

The two, Saniel says, were able to extract P45,000 cash from the victim in exchange for a sealed shoulder bag, which contained strips of paper.

Even members of the Pentagon kidnap gang have found First Crumb Street a good place to hide. It was there where Canadian Pierre Belanger was briefly kept before he was moved out to Davao del Norte.

But residents will not tell the exact location of the house where Belanger was kept. They even say they were not aware that kidnappers had lived there.

Police authorities confirm encountering the same attitude when they were trying to find out where the Pentagon members were hiding.

But one resident says this was not surprising at all. The reluctance could be traced to the involvement of several lawmen themselves in criminal activities, he says.

"You just cannot trust everybody," he says.

1ST CRUMB ST.
RIZAL AVE.

CRIMES Avenue? Police say First Crumb Street in Barangay Zone II in Digos City has become notorious because of the presence of criminals.

ANTHONY ALLADA

Jolo, Zambo explosions kill boy, hurt 49 others

From page A1

REUTERS

AN injured woman talks on a mobile phone outside a theater after a grenade, hurled from the balcony section, exploded in Zamboanga City.

Faxlur Abdullah, chief nurse at the provincial hospital, said most of the victims suffered shrapnel wounds. Some had been discharged, she said.

Abdullah, however, said health authorities feared that some of those seriously wounded could catch tetanus.

In Zamboanga City, witnesses reported panic-stricken people fleeing the theater, some carrying bloodied victims and others suffering slight injuries in the stampede, the Associated Press reported.

Police searched the theater with bomb-sniffing dogs.

Analyn Molina, who sold popcorn and ice cream outside the movie house, said she heard a muffled blast from inside.

"Suddenly people poured out of the theater. Some were yelling, 'Bomb! Bomb!'" she said.

Several hours later, officials reopened the theater and police and soldiers lifted roadblocks on streets around the mall.

The mall is across the street from an open air-food court where an explosion killed six persons and injured 56 others in October. Police blamed Abu Sayyaf bandits, the target of the six-month RP-US war exercise on Basilan Island, for that bombing.

Mall chief security officer Danilo Carreon said the mall had 58 security guards and very tight security. "No amount of security measures could prevent a determined terrorist from sowing terror," he said.

Escaped suspect

SPO1 Noel Estanjan, a police investigator, said one of the wounded moviegoers escaped while being treated at a local hospital, prompting them to place him under suspicion.

"We are in hot pursuit of him because he appeared very distrustful. He even refused to give his name when he was escorted by the medical team," Estanjan told the INQUIRER.

Four of the five victims were identified as Catherine Gonzales, 19; Telly Belle Kuan, 19; Charles Marasigan Jr., 14; and Jennilyn Rugaya, 15.

Bomb experts from Task Force Zamboanga said the grenade was of poor quality. "There wase no serious damage," Col. Roland Detabali, deputy chief of the military's Southern Command, said.

Jolo probe

Jolo Mayor Suod Tan said an investigation of the bombing incident was conducted immediately. But he admitted that one problem was the lack of willing witnesses.

Tan warned residents not to gather in crowds and to always be alert.

Tolentino said the explosion might have been the work of a syndicate, whose activities were recently uncovered by the Sulu Internal Defense Force.

However, some residents believed it was a retaliatory attack for the death of at least three Scout Rangers on Jan. 17. The soldiers were on their way to market, a day after the mayhem, when irate residents mauled and hacked them.

Officials said some people, who insist that the military deliberately killed the protesters, fanned the emotions of the residents.

EXPLOSION leaves bloodstains on floor, handkerchief and slippers.

VAL HANDUMON

This was viewed as part of their move to have the military removed, "which could not be done because of the severe peace and order problem," Tolentino said.

Bomb threats

Officials of the Don Jose Godinez Memorial Elementary School said they received threatening letters from still unidentified persons. One of the letters warned of abductions if their demand to close the school was not met.

In Kabacan, Cotabato, an incendiary bomb planted inside the College of Education building at the University of Southern Mindanao went off on Friday, triggering a minor fire.

No one was hurt but minutes later, responding lawmen found another bomb of a similar type.

In Cotabato City, bomb scares swept two government offices also on Friday, sending employees into panic.

However, experts found no trace of explosives inside the offices of the Civil Service Commission in Central Mindanao and Civil Service Commission regional office for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

Assaults

The blast in Jolo came days after the military launched air and ground assaults against the Abu Sayyaf and Misuari's followers.

Foreign wire agencies said at least 10 bandits were killed during the air strikes, but military authorities denied the reports.

The operation came after recent Abu Sayyaf attacks that killed at least 11 soldiers on Jolo.

Tolentino blamed the bandits for the attacks, saying that several days earlier, they sent letters to several schools threatening to abduct teachers and students if the military operation was not stopped.

Misuari, leader of the Moro National Liberation Front, is being held without bail on charges of rebellion for allegedly orchestrating an attack on the army base in Jolo in November despite a peace agreement he signed with the government in 1996.

The government said Misuari and his followers had allied themselves with the Abu Sayyaf, which is notorious for kidnappings and beheadings.

The group, which has been linked to the al-Qaida terror network, is holding an American missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage in Basilan.

Col. Roland Detabali, Southcom's chief of operations, said they were still trying to determine who hurled the grenade.

The rebels were reportedly trying to distract the military from pursuing them and the three hostages. *With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and the Inquirer wires*

Texting puts RP on world map again

From page A17

four finalists for Best Wireless Applications Developer in the GSM Association Awards.

The other nominees in the category were from Ireland and France.

The GSM Association Awards is considered the Oscars of the global system for mobile communications (GSM) industry. The awarding ceremony will be held on Feb. 19 in Cannes, France.

"Making it to the finals gives us so much pride, but it also shows how creative the Filipinos truly are," said Myla Villanueva, Wolfpac managing director.

"Creating applications on text takes a lot of imagination. And the volume (of text messages) required us to create a solid software platform that can deal with tens of thousands of messages per day," Villanueva said.

'Hotbed'

Wolfpac director Generoso Villanueva Jr. said the Philippines was way ahead of Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia and most Asian countries when it came to wireless applications.

He said the country served as a "hotbed" for texting applications because the market for such service was very big.

Wolfpac is the brains behind Smart Communications Inc.'s popular text game "Txt to Millions."

Villanueva said it was probably the "No. 1 application in the Philippines today," which makes it doubly difficult for the company to maintain.

He said the Department of Trade and Industry was constantly monitoring the text game for any glitches that could cause a disruption in the texting network.

Crash-proof

"We had to build an application that could handle hundreds of thousands of hits a day. We had to build an application that would not fail," Villanueva said.

Wolfpac can handle a text message influx of any magnitude because its system is almost "crash proof," he added.

The company was established in 1999 as a security software specialist but it decided to venture into cell phone applications after it saw a lot of opportunities in that field.

In the late '90s, Smart and Globe Telecom Inc. started trying to upstage each other with better handset models, services and applications. And the Filipinos' love affair with texting soared after several software applications hit the market.

Other ASPs also emerged, prompting Wolfpac to continue innovating.

Broad appeal

Its "Txt to Millions" remains popular because, Villanueva says, it caters to a broad spectrum of cellular phone users.

"'Txt to Millions" is played by people from all walks of life ... It has broad appeal. Ordinary employees and even company executives participate in this text game," Villanueva said with pride.

At present, Wolfpac is exploring partnerships with telecommunications firms abroad. The venture, according to Villanueva, is proving quite an experience for the company.

"They don't understand why people are willing to spend money on logos and ring tones," he said.

Wolfpac's talented programmers are currently busy developing new applications that will wow both local and foreign markets, Villanueva added.

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Government Service Insurance System is happy to announce the winners in the 3rd Quarterly Raffle of pensioners enrolled in the Pension Payment Through Banks Program (PPTBP) of the System held on September 2001 to wit:

Office/ Branch	Prize	Name	Retirement Number
(Home Office)	First Prize (P5,000.00)	Windsor Cipriano	PB-244305
		Rosario Lopez Vito	PB-152535
		Orlando Velasco	PB-176929
	Second Prize (P3,000.00)	Margarita De Castro	R-128171
		Santiago Celario	PB-219832
		Estelle Basilla	PB-126483
	Third Prize (P2,000.00)	Ellezer Estacio	PB-008206
		Rene Canizares	R-146497
		Teofila Ravanzo	R-239953
AREA I			
Baguio	First Prize	Regina Cabacungan	RI-003436
	Second Prize	Gregorio Ariz	RI-003658
	Third Prize	Guillermo Plurad	DI-008190
Bataan	First Prize	Camila Academia	PB-113578
	Second Prize	Fidencio Academia	PB-012930
	Third Prize	Dionisia Jorge	PB-014319
Batangas	First Prize	Feliza Dizon	PB-182735
	Second Prize	Fidela Red	R-135308
	Third Prize	Francisca Cantre	R-061769
Bayombong	First Prize	Jose M. Fajardo	R-161858
	Second Prize	Johnny L. Baluyan	R-246402
	Third Prize	Saturnino M. Fernandez	PB-155766
Cabanatuan	First Prize	Geronimo Barcelo	PB-148262
	Second Prize	Rosalino Ison	R-037526
	Third Prize	Emilia Manalad	R-199764
Cauayan	First Prize	Nicolasa Mallillin	PB-112425
	Second Prize	Juan V. Carig	PB-117921
	Third Prize	Nenita V. De Guzman	R-254145
Dagupan	First Prize	Procopio T. Estrada	DB-1176
	Second Prize	Eugenia F. Melchor	PB-139431
	Third Prize	Marcelino C. Colis	PB-155257
Laguna	First Prize	Beatriz Guevarra	R-272614
	Second Prize	Antonio Milanes	PB-124518
	Third Prize	Anita Roasa	PB R-191691
La Union	First Prize	Lourdes Pichay	R-082965
	Second Prize	Eulogio Ganon	RI-003242
	Third Prize	Cipriano Calderon	PB-118558
Laoag	First Prize	Priscilla E. Refuerzo	PB-190555
	Second Prize	Maximo P. Soriano	PB-023740
	Third Prize	Bonifacio J. Salvador	PB-221861
Legaspi	First Prize	Francisca A. Balbaguio	PB-112280
	Second Prize	Pedro N. Nicerio	RC-003829
	Third Prize	Carmen M. Del Rosario	PB-157573
Lucena	First Prize	Luisa R. Rayala	PB-194527
	Second Prize	Carinab B. Garganta	R-265101
	Third Prize	Margarito E. De Ocampo	PB-191238
Naga	First Prize	Alejandro V. San Buenaventura	DC-002908
	Second Prize	Rosario N. Gonzales	R-071446
	Third Prize	Gil N. Echano	DC-003065
Palawan	First Prize	Trinidad M. Soto	PB-121634
	Second Prize	Domingo C. Galsim	PB-126082
	Third Prize	Miguel M. Valones	R-256793
Pampanga	First Prize	Elpidio Orteza	RP-000437
	Second Prize	Mercedes Manlucu	PB-034845
	Third Prize	Leonardo Aquino	PB-011373
Sorsogon	First Prize	Nicolas Ferry	R-059689
	Second Prize	Restituto C. Esbarza	PB-014620
	Third Prize	Jose C. Medina	PB-042032
Tarlac	First Prize	Domingo G. Bartolo	PB-172251
	Second Prize	Juan L. Capiendo	R-195631
	Third Prize	Isaias G. Domingo	PB-143167
Tuguegarao	First Prize	Anita B. Soriano	RY-000320
	Second Prize	Teodorico I. Dangli	PB-151319
	Third Prize	Aristotle B. Como	PB-162756
AREA II			
Bacolod	First Prize	Carmelita B. Banas	PB-134570
	Second Prize	Jacinto Mananap	PB-212115
	Third Prize	Rodolfo B. Sauce	PB-040384
Bohol *	First Prize	Esther B. Lim	PB-100083
	Second Prize	Margarito N. Balite	R-084030
	Third Prize	Rosario T. Dizon	PB-115253
Butuan	First Prize	Publeo Petallar	PB-137890
	Second Prize	Benjamin Butcon	PB-025815
	Third Prize	Jose Esteves	PB-150512
Cagayan de Oro	First Prize	Georgina M. Santos	R-132212
	Second Prize	Cesarea D. Najeal	RF-001778
	Third Prize	Florencio R. Nalus	PB-125282
Catbalogan	First Prize	Librada Ragonot	PB-175042
	Second Prize	Antonio Lipata	PB-007740
	Third Prize	Guillermo Loyao	DJ-001605
Cebu	First Prize	Sergio S. Asumen	R-233986
	Second Prize	Terencia Omolon	PB-037610
	Third Prize	Pedro B. Indolos	R-083279
Cotabato	First Prize	Susana J. Quirao	PB-140456
	Second Prize	Filomena E. Padua	PB-031516
	Third Prize	Apoyo P. Mendoza	PB-111643
Davao	First Prize	Juanito G. Sollano	PB-156763
	Second Prize	Jovita D. Escovidal	PB-109967
	Third Prize	Adams F. Madayag	RG-004459
Dipolog	First Prize	Libertad S. Nebrija	PB-175549
	Second Prize	Caridad S. Abejuela	R-264454
	Third Prize	Epifania M. Abadia	PB-36442
Dumaguete	First Prize	Abraham O. Manila	PB-188554
	Second Prize	Lucila T. Alcala	PB-201617
	Third Prize	Jose M. Mercado	PB-029608
Gen. Santos	First Prize	Abelardo P. Nebran	PB-161938
	Second Prize	Alfredo C. Gapasin	RM-0972
	Third Prize	Juliana Samillano	PB-111768
Iloilo	First Prize	Olimpia Monteclaro	DE-001740
	Second Prize	Juana Esmero	PB-018273
	Third Prize	Clarita Osunero	DE-006177
Kidapawan	First Prize	Cornelia D. Pallado	PB-183396
	Second Prize	Lagrimas Salamida	RM-001165
	Third Prize	Praxedes Quiñones	PB-169524
Maasin	First Prize	Juliana M. Villegas	DD-002806
	Second Prize	Alfonsa K. Monta	DD-000955
	Third Prize	Asuncion M. Velarde	PB-126060
Pagadian	First Prize	Jose P. Aballe	R-096179
	Second Prize	Francisco E. Fernando	DO-001089
	Third Prize	Amador D. Cañete	PB-126167
Surigao	First Prize	Neria P. Balane	PB-028352
	Second Prize	Recaredo M. Crisologo	PB-038551
	Third Prize	Porferio A. Comparativo	PB-105412
Tacloban	First Prize	Leonardo M. Muertigue	PB-028740
	Second Prize	Hugo C. Lauzon	PB-014518
	Third Prize	Eduardo D. Majalt	PB-001555
Tagum	First Prize	Ricardo Dayanan	PB-164164
	Second Prize	Lidio A. Amoncio	DG-003840
	Third Prize	Sergio D. Tanduyan	DG-000404
Zamboanga	First Prize	Jailani Pasangan	PB-008955
	Second Prize	Benjamin C. Rivera	RO-001001
	Third Prize	Alvaro Agustin	PB-126951

** Branch Office which have not submitted report as of 11 February 2002: Iligan Branch Office, Roxas Branch Office*

Winning pensioners can claim their cash prizes at the nearest GSIS office.

If you are a pensioner, you too can win a cash prize in the succeeding quarterly raffles by enrolling in the GSIS PPTBP. Enrollment forms are available in all GSIS Branch Offices and at the GSIS Headquarters, Pasay City.

To our winning pensioners, our congratulations. The PPTBP Raffle is just one of the programs where the GSIS can extend additional benefits to its valued members.

(Sgd.) WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

February 17, 2002 -- Inquirer

Pentagon boss falls

From page A1

were being killed one by one by government agents, forcing him to go underground.

Negotiator

Police officials, however, described Marohombsar as the Pentagon gang's ransom negotiator in at least four kidnap-for-ransom cases, including that of Canadian Pierre Fernan Belanger in November and Ma. Cecilia Bonifacio in January.

"He's one of the personalities in the group," Ebdane told the INQUIRER.

Marohombsar's arrest came a week after the President directed the PNP to take the lead in busting the Pentagon gang. In response to this, the police formed Task Force Mindanao to go after the gang leaders and members.

The Pentagon gang, which gained notoriety for abducting foreigners, is headed by Tahir Alonto.

Reports earlier said the gang has been holding Italian priest Fr. Guiseppe "Beppe" Pierantoni hostage for four months now.

Ebdane, however, said that Pierantoni was abducted by a small kidnapping gang, which has no ties to the Pentagon.

"That's only in the newspapers," he said of reports that the Pentagon gang was behind the abduction of Pierantoni in Dimataling, Zamboanga del Sur, in October last year.

Operatives from the Naktaf, Army Intelligence Unit, PNP Special Action Force, AFP Anti-Crime Task Force and Western Police District arrested Marohombsar on the strength of a warrant issued by Judge Edgardo Ligren of the Regional Trial Court in Cagayan de Oro City.

Seized from him were a .45 cal. automatic, two .45 cal. magazines, 17 live bullets and a mobile phone.

Also invited for questioning were Marohombsar's wife Fatima; SPO2 Mustapha Mendoza of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and his son Mustapha Jr., Alex Ramalan, Tamano Salih, Anuar Sumandar, Datumaguda Anong Pakamanan and son Datu Anong, and Oting Akul.

They were either staying with Marohombsar's or in an adjacent room.

Surprised

Leaders of the Muslim community in Quiapo expressed surprise over Marohombsar's capture in Manila.

Makay Lukman, a retired colonel and husband of a barangay chair in the Quiapo Islamic Center, said he and Marohombsar were once neighbors in Mindanao.

"He knew he was a wanted man and it was quite inconceivable that he would go here to Manila, of all places," Lukman told reporters.

He said Muslim residents were not aware of the arrival of Marohombsar and his gang in the community.

"We should have known," he said, adding anyone coming from Mindanao would always be noticed by the community.

Lukman added there was no report of any unusual police activity in the Quiapo Islamic Center during the past few days. He said the Muslim residents were aware of police activities, however, talking about them often.

Prior to his arrest, there were reports that Marohombsar had sent surrender feelers and that some government officials even tried to negotiate for his surrender.

According to Naktaf sources, Marohombsar is a cousin of Senior Supt. Willie Marohombsar Dangane, who together with Supt. Efren Alcuizar, has been ordered investigated for alleged links to the Pentagon gang.

Dangane, operations chief of Task Force Sanglahi-Pentagon, and Alcuizar, head of the Regional Anti-Narcotics Office in Central Mindanao, have been relieved pending investigation.

The two have denied any links to the gang, according to police officials. ***With reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Jerome Aning, and Inquirer wires***

Ex-Moro rebel leader says gov't forced him to resort to banditry

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—Faizal Marohombsar, who is in his mid-40s, joined the Moro National Liberation Front under Nur Misuari in the late 1970s and established his base in Lanao del Sur, particularly the coastal town of Malabang.

In the early 1980s, he surrendered to the government under the Balik-Baril of the National Reconciliation and Development Program (NRDP).

Right after his surrender, Marohombsar worked as a security guard at the state-owned Mindanao State University in Marawi City during the term of MSU president Emily Marohombsar, a relative.

However, he later turned to banditry.

His first shot at notoriety came in 1999 when he publicly announced his group's abduction of a woman doctor in Parang, Maguindanao.

He justified the abduction as part of his effort to get the government's attention regarding the non-release of the livelihood funds promised his group during their surrender.

"When I surrendered, we waited in vain for the livelihood funds. Nothing came. We were fooled," Marohombsar told radio dxMS late last year when asked why he ventured into kidnapping.

But the biggest reason for returning to the underground was the killing of his followers by suspected government men.

"Slowly, government intelligence operatives were executing my men one by one. (So) before they could kill me, I decided to return to kidnapping because money there comes easy," Marohombsar said.

Marohombsar forged an alliance with the remnants of the Mubarak kidnap-for-ransom group and their group came to be known as the Pentagon.

He was widely believed to be involved in the series of abductions that hit MSU and the National Power Corp. several years ago.

Other kidnapping victims included Italian priest Luciano Benedetti, the four Chinese engineers working on an irrigation project in Carmen, Cotabato, and Canadian Pierre Belanger. He denied participation in the kidnapping of Italian priest Giuseppe Pierantoni.

In December last year, Faizal started to send surrender feelers. He later claimed that Malacañang wanted him to help in the release of Pierantoni before his surrender could be discussed.

But while he was willing to surrender, police and military authorities continued to hunt him down.

'US troops in Basilan warning to all terrorists'

From page A1

their Filipino counterparts into combat zones but will be armed only for self-defense.

Only the Special Forces soldiers will be allowed to travel to Basilan from nearby Zamboanga City where the rest of the 660-man US contingent taking part in the maneuvers will be based.

About 10 km from the Army camp, thousands of Filipino troops pressed their hunt for about 80 Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been holding a US missionary couple and a Filipino nurse hostage for nearly nine months.

Some of the American soldiers, armed with assault rifles and wearing bulletproof vests, camouflage uniforms and headgear fitted with night-vision goggles, left the camp Saturday morning to visit three towns in Basilan.

The Americans was accompanied by members of the Philippine Army's elite Light Reaction Company, which was trained by the US Special Forces last year as the spearhead of the operation against the Abu Sayyaf.

Other US soldiers riding in new pickups with tinted windows moved out of the camp to set up communications and other equipment in the interior of the island to be used in the military exercises next week.

Other American soldiers boarded aging Philippine Air Force helicopters for a familiarization flight around the 124,892-hectare island, about the size of Singapore.

'Threat is there'

"Considering that they are American soldiers, the threat is there," said Col. Alexander Aleo, commander of the Philippine Army's 103rd Brigade. "But we're prepared to face the threat. Even the American soldiers have been briefed and they say they can defend themselves," Aleo said.

Asked if he feared for the safety of American soldiers, Major Sam said, "Honestly, no."

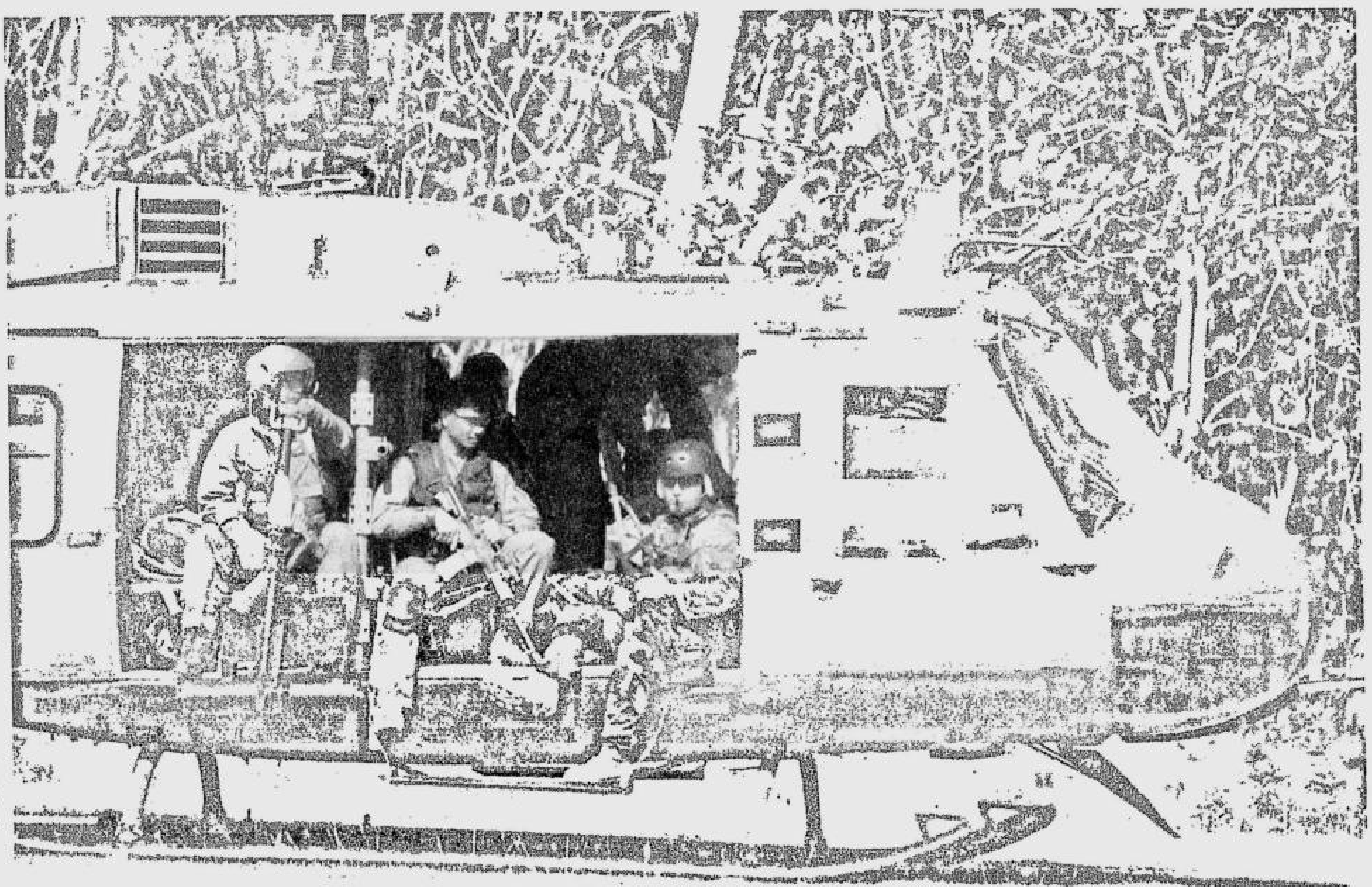
Major Sam said his fellow American soldiers were aware of the hazards of venturing into the jungles of Basilan where the bandits enjoy mastery over the terrain and support from the largely Muslim population who provide them with food and sanctuary.

"We seek ways to reduce the risks. We know that there are risks and that's part of the job," he said.

Major Sam said the US military's role was that of an "enabler," providing training and assistance "to complement and enhance" the capability of Filipino soldiers.

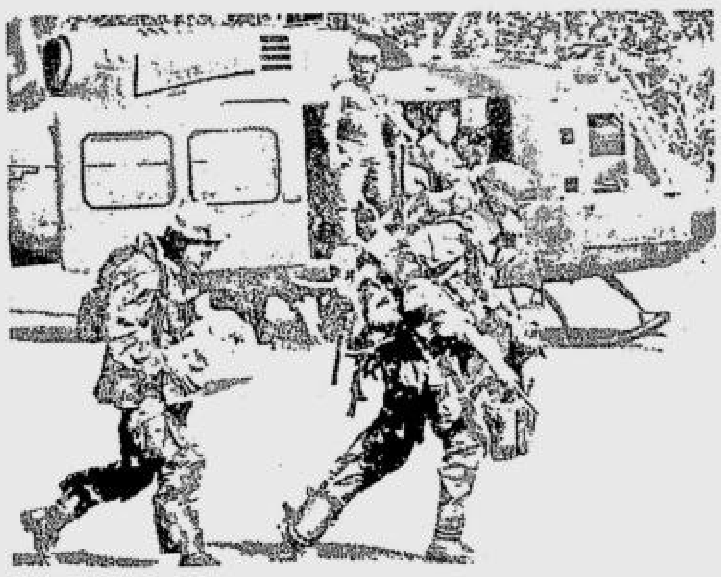
"We feel very confident in the ability of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to take care of the situation," he said.

While Aleo and Major Sam spoke to reporters, US military helicopters continued to pour sophisticated military equipment and supplies, including combat rations, into the 10-hectare Army camp nestled in hills overlooking a shimmering, narrow strait separating Basilan from Zamboanga.



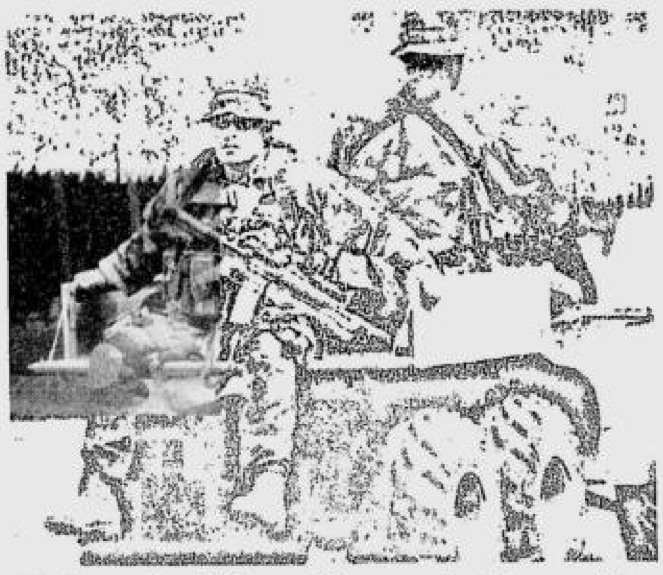
MEMBERS of US Special Forces and Philippine Army Scout Rangers board a Philippine,Air Force helicopter gunship for a reconnaissance mission in Tabiawan, Basilan.

VAL HANDUM.ON



AMERICAN and Filipino soldiers rush supplies of food and bottled water.

AP



AN all-terrain vehicle provides convenient transport for war exercises in Basilan.

AP

Booster

Lt. Col. Reynato Padua, commander of the Philippine Army's 1st Scout Ranger Battalion, said the US presence was a "psychological booster" for Filipino soldiers who hope to acquire modern weapons and equipment from the Americans after the exercise.

Early Saturday, a Philippine Navy ship also unloaded about two dozen four-wheel drive trucks and other equipment and brought them to the Army camp.

The US soldiers pitched tent near basketball and tennis courts where they stocked up on food and water rations. Some set up laptop computers and communications equipment in a nearby grandstand.

Filipino soldiers, several wearing slippers, mingled with the Americans, gawking at their gear, including satellite telephones, all-terrain vehicles and headphone-mike units that could be worn under a helmet.

As dogs and goats roamed freely around the camp, several Filipino soldiers cooked in a large blackened wok over a wood fire. The Americans, who have their Meals Ready to Eat rations, were negotiating for a caterer, a Filipino officer said.

The jungle-covered mountains of Basilan have been home to American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham of Wichita, Kansas, and Filipino nurse Edeborah Yap since they were seized by Abu Sayyaf bandits in a kidnapping rampage that began last May.

Sighting

Padua said the Burnhams were last sighted Jan. 27 in the Sampinit mountain area in central Basilan. He said only about 80 bandits operate on the island, including around 30 guarding the hostages.

About 5,000 Filipino soldiers have been deployed to Basilan since June last year.

Major Sam said he considered the Abu Sayyaf a "shared problem" between the Philippines and the United States.

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States have created a "tighter bond between the two governments so together we can work to ensure that people who wish to conduct terrorist activities cannot do so and we can all live in a better world," he said. ***Reports from AP and Reuters***

How many bullets needed to kill one NPA?

From page A1

or wound 30 NPA rebels.

"Theoretically, this means that for every enemy casualty, Solcom troopers used up 1,506 rounds of assorted ammunition," said Col. Romeo Lustestica of the Solcom assistant chief of staff's office. He defined enemy casualty as one that was slain or wounded.

And all that ammo cost the AFP a total of P1.5 million, he said. Put another way, the amount spent to neutralize one NPA rebel was at least P50,601.91, Lustestica said in his report.

Lustestica revealed his findings in an article titled, "Reduction of Ammunition Expenditure," that appeared in the Pacific Reveille (4th Quarter 2001), a quarterly publication of the Solcom which is headquartered at Camp Nakar here.

The military officer expressed alarm over the staggering wastage of ammunition, describing it as "excessive."

"If the situation is not corrected immediately, the entire ammo stock of the AFP will be finished before we know it," he warned.

But, Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Solcom head, explained that the actual number of bullets fired in combat was small.

"The ammunition fired in actual combat is only about 20 percent of the total of expended ammo. Most of the bullets are fired in training," Carolina told the INQUIRER.

Carolina, who took over command of Solcom last December, said it was wrong to compare the amount of ammunition expended to the casualty count on the enemy's side.

The high number of expended ammo could be attributed to several factors, Lustestica admitted.

For one, military units and individuals have a tendency to bloat their ammo expenditures to cover up previous losses or to put away some "savings" to cover future losses.

A ranking Solcom officer told newsmen that three months ago, there were "unrealistic" reports coming from the field showing high spent ammo numbers.

Carolina said the military had since altered the ammunition inventory process.

"We now require the field units to submit their accounting of expended ammo right after the actual combat and not later like they did in the past," he said.

Lustestica said poor marksmanship and the lack of "fire discipline" by the soldiers were also being looked into as causes of the high usage of bullets.

The officer also blamed defective firearms for the high ammo use.

To correct the situation, Lustestica said commanders "must exert efforts to countercheck the ammo consumption reported by their men."

He said soldiers must also undergo regular marksmanship training, plus a regular inspection and test firing of their firearms.

Fire discipline during encounters, Lustestica said, should be strictly observed. This means firing a weapon only at a sure target and avoiding firing a weapon in automatic mode.

He also stressed the importance of soldiers picking their targets. "No two members of an engaging unit should fire at the same target," he said.

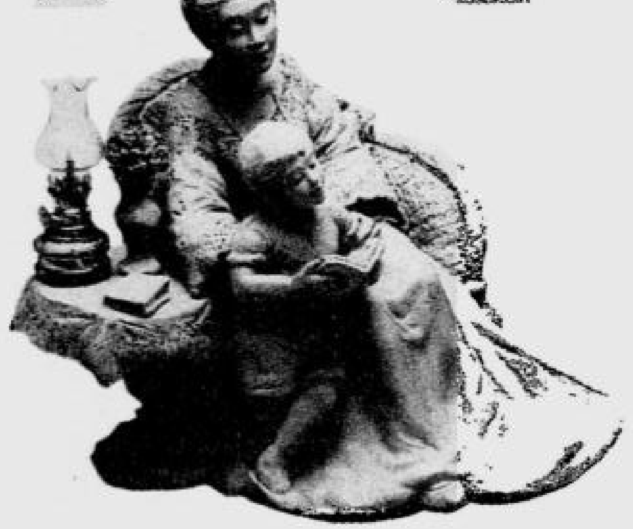
The military officer said soldiers should also avoid "recon (noitering) by fire" and aim for "one shot, one kill" during encounters.

Lustestica did not discount the possibility ammunition pilferage was also behind the high ammo expenditures.

"Of course, only the unscrupulous military personnel and scalawags in our ranks do this," he countered.

Carolina said corrective steps were being taken by the command to correct the problem, although he did not reveal what these were.

13th
GINTONG ILAWAN
THE TEODORA ALONSO EDUCATOR'S AWARD
ILLUMINATING THE WAY FOR EXCELLENCE



As the moon rises to its evening watch, a modest house shelters a growing greatness reading by the light of a lampara.

Suddenly, a figure of a woman appears, momentarily blocking the light. She leans to close the windows, then takes a seat and lifts the little boy to her lap. He squirms his way down to take a more comfortable stance leaning by his mother.

With book in hand, he turns the pages while his mother patiently, lovingly traces with her finger every word, every sentence. Sometimes correcting pronunciation, other times explaining what a word means; their nightly ritual of reading together is just one part of her commitment to give her son a promising future.

It is a picture of dedication, of devotion. It is a scene we imagine Doña Teodora, mother and first teacher of our country's national hero, Jose Rizal, to have been a part of. It is an image that inspires Avon.

With the Gintong Ilawan Teodora Alonso Award, Avon draws attention to the integral role of women in the education of our country's future leaders. Inspiring and dedicated like Doña Teodora herself, the program seeks to honor outstanding women principals in the country.

Riding on the wings of another Avon success, the Adopt-A-School Program, the Gintong Ilawan Awards began in 1985 with this simple premise: for the seed of excellent education to grow, excellent educators must also be nurtured.

Twelve years later, Gintong Ilawan has grown into a national dialogue. Not just of techniques and skills, but of the wisdom and values gleaned by our women principals from their hardships and triumphs. It is a sharing of best practices that only ensures to uplift our standard of education.

Last January 14, fourteen private elementary school principals, all regional winners of the 13th Gintong Ilawan Awards, arrived in Manila for the awarding ceremonies and for a three-day management program at the prestigious AIM.

They participated in the specially designed Principals School Management course (PRISM), where fundamentals and cutting edge trends in management leadership were imparted. From planning strategies to negotiating styles, the principals were equipped with the vital knowledge to help them run their schools. An addition to the course this year was the introduction of Spiritual Intelligence or SQ.

The latest installment in the multiple intelligences study, the previous being IQ and EQ, SQ is responsible for one's moral sense, the ability to discern, the expression of compassion, and the capacity to dream and to aspire. Judging from the various backgrounds of the regional winners, SQ was at work even before the concept was introduced to them.

The achievements of the 14 regional winners this year can be best described as "Christian love in action." From creating scholarship programs funded with their own money to persevering despite flooding schools, faculty retrenchment, and even MNLF threats, each principal's resolve is already deserving of an award.

Yet in the end, one principal stood taller than the rest.

Dr. Josefina Suarez, principal and founder of Elizabeth Seton School, won the coveted Gintong Ilawan Award for outstanding elementary school principal. The challenges that have beset this dedicated principal for the past 26 years have been daunting: from raising the initial funds to start school operations, to creating a curriculum that addresses the expanse of knowledge required by her students for success.

Hard work has paid off and what began as a simple dream is now PAASCU's "School of the Future." This recognition along with her newest victory as the 13th Gintong Ilawan awardee motivates her to uphold a life of service through her school's continued participation in the Adopt-A-School Program. As she reaffirms in her acceptance speech: "I commit to serve the poorest of the poor at the Mikesell Elementary School in Las Piñas as my way of returning the glory to him.

By her words, her deeds, her spirit, Dr. Josefina Suarez proves that she is indeed a "golden light," illuminating the way for excellence for many more principals and educators to come.

She and the rest of the 14 regional winners are pictures of dedication and of devotion. It is a scene we hope many more women who embody Doña Teodora's spirit and commitment will be part of. It is an image by which Avon will be continually inspired.

REGIONAL WINNERS (Left to Right) 1st row: Juanita Eligio (Region 1), Editha Peralta (Region 2), Sis. Ma. [illegible] (Region 3), Erlinda Palabrica (Region 4), National Winner Dr. Josefina Suarez (NCR), Ofelia Peralta (Region 5), Lucy [illegible] (Region 6), Guadalupe Latonio (Region 7); 2nd row: Encarnacion Gonzales (Region 9), Ma. Corazon del Fierro (Region 10), [illegible] Padojinog (Region 12), Consuelo Corazon Galvez (Region ARMM), Aida Idio (Region CAR), Estrellita Plarisan (Region 8). With Avon Executives (Left to Right) 3rd row: Jose Mari Franco (Avon Area VP for Southern Asia), Ken Gibson (Vice President for Manufacturing, Asia Pacific), Malu Dy Buncio (Avon Cosmetics, Inc.-General Manager), Ben Gallina (Avon Products, Inc.-Senior Vice President for Asia Pacific), Fernando Lezama (Avon Products, Inc. -Executive Vice President and President for Asia Pacific).

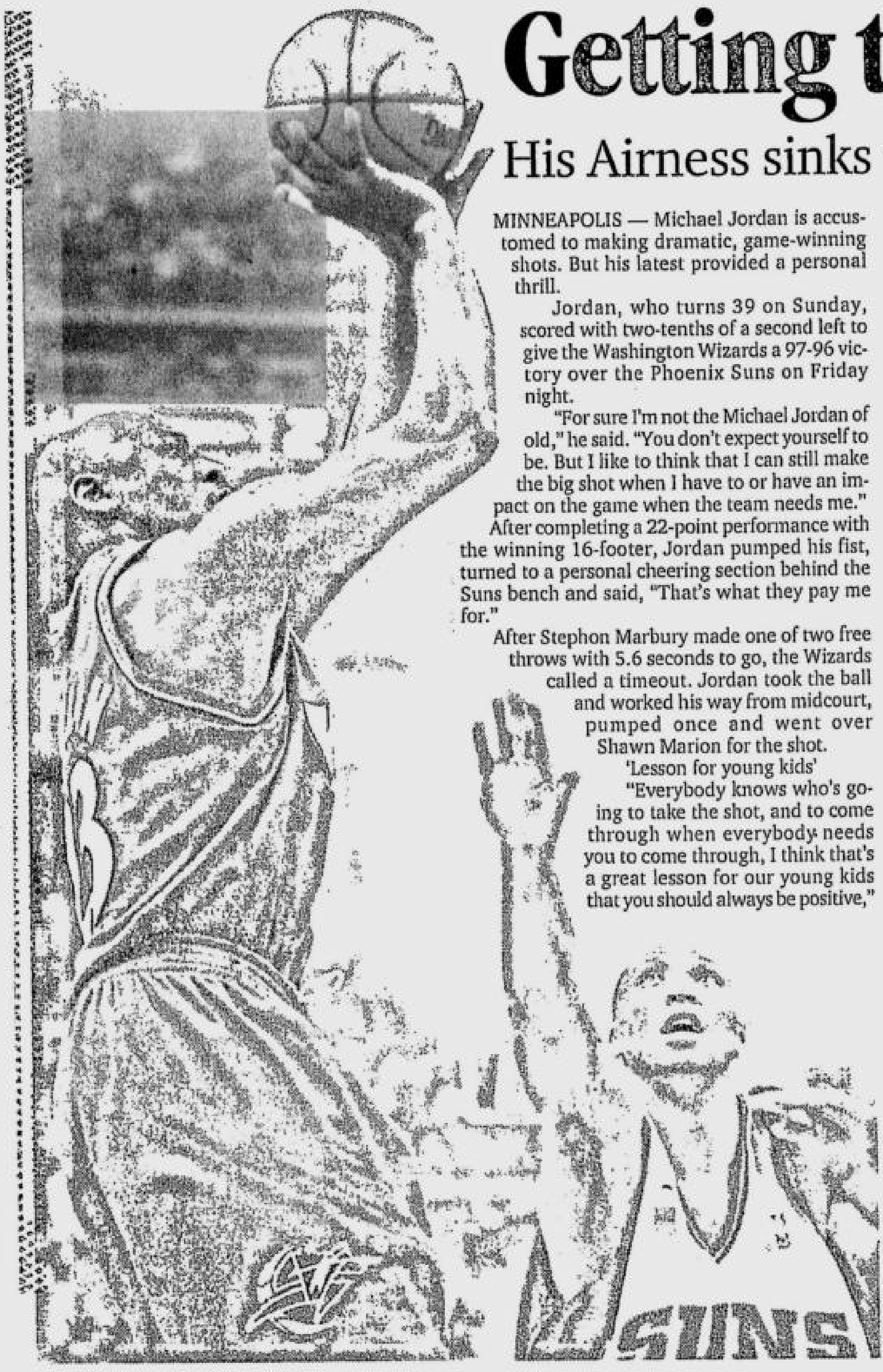
AVON

in partnership with the

Department of Education, Fund for Assistance to Private Education (FAPE) and the Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities - Coordinating Council of Private Education Associations (PACU-COCOPEA)

Getting to be a habit for Jordan

His Airness sinks winning jumper with two-tenths of a second left



JORDAN (with ball): "I can still make the big shots when I have to." AFP

MINNEAPOLIS — Michael Jordan is accustomed to making dramatic, game-winning shots. But his latest provided a personal thrill.

Jordan, who turns 39 on Sunday, scored with two-tenths of a second left to give the Washington Wizards a 97-96 victory over the Phoenix Suns on Friday night.

"For sure I'm not the Michael Jordan of old," he said. "You don't expect yourself to be. But I like to think that I can still make the big shot when I have to or have an impact on the game when the team needs me."

After completing a 22-point performance with the winning 16-footer, Jordan pumped his fist, turned to a personal cheering section behind the Suns bench and said, "That's what they pay me for."

After Stephon Marbury made one of two free throws with 5.6 seconds to go, the Wizards called a timeout. Jordan took the ball and worked his way from midcourt, pumped once and went over Shawn Marion for the shot.

'Lesson for young kids'

"Everybody knows who's going to take the shot, and to come through when everybody needs you to come through, I think that's a great lesson for our young kids that you should always be positive," Jordan said.

In other games, it was Utah 94, Toronto 85; Charlotte 116, Indiana 106; Detroit 101, New York 90; Denver 99, Minnesota 98; Milwaukee 90, Miami 88 in overtime; New Jersey 106, Chicago 81; Boston 107, Portland 104; San Antonio 108, Golden State 99; and Atlanta 93, the Los Angeles Lakers 90.

Richard Hamilton had 29 points for Washington, which snapped a two-game losing streak, and Tyrone Nesby had a season-high 18 points and 10 rebounds.

Marbury had 30 points for the Suns, who dropped their second straight.

Jordan had 41 points in Washington's 112-102 win over Phoenix on Jan. 26. This time, he was scoreless after a 13-point first quarter until 2:11 into the fourth, when he gave the Wizards a 75-74 lead with a free throw.

"I was playing good defense on him the whole game," Marion said. "He hit more free throws than he hit field goals, so what can I do? He hit the tough shot."

Jazz 94, Raptors 85

Karl Malone and John Stockton each scored 23 points as Utah won its third straight.

Malone, ejected after receiving a second technical foul with less than 42 seconds remaining, scored seven points during a 16-5 run for the Jazz, who are 3-2 on their nine-game road trip.

Alvin Williams scored 26 points for the Raptors, who have lost three straight.

Hornets 116, Pacers 106

Baron Davis tied a career high with 38 points, and P.J. Brown had 18 rebounds as Charlotte beat Indiana.

Austin Croshere had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the visiting Pacers, who were outrebounded 46-34 and fell two games under .500 for the first time this season.

Pistons 101, Knicks 90

Ben Wallace had season highs of 19 points and 22 rebounds as Detroit came back from an early 17-point deficit.

Chucky Atkins added 19 points, including 11 in the third quarter when the Pistons turned the game around with a 20-1 run.

Latrell Sprewell had his first 20-point game since late January with 25 points for the Knicks.

Nuggets 99, Timberwolves 98

Raef LaFrentz scored 30 points, including a driving layup with 3 seconds to play to give Denver a victory at Minnesota.

LaFrentz hit six 3-pointers, including three in the third quarter, to lead the Nuggets back from a 14-point deficit.

Reserve Anthony Peeler led the Timberwolves with 24 points.

Heat 90, Bucks 88, OT

Eddie Jones hit a jumper with 7.1 seconds left in overtime to lift Miami over Milwaukee.

Glenn Robinson had a chance to tie it for the Bucks, but his jumper from short range hit the rim as time expired. *AP*

Texas: Also a no

AUSTIN, Texas—Mike Tyson's application to box in Texas was denied Friday, the latest setback in the former heavyweight champion's attempt to get a sanctioned bout against Lennox Lewis.

Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation Executive Director Bill Kuntz said his decision was based on Tyson's history in the ring and disciplinary action by other states. He noted Tyson's past license suspensions in Nevada and Michigan.

"I made my decision to deny Mr. Tyson a license based on his past behavior in the ring, his unwillingness to follow the basic rules and laws of boxing, and our mandate to regulate boxing in the public interest," Kuntz said. "In the boxing ring, Mike Tyson is a repeat offender. I have no confidence that his future behavior would differ from his past behavior."

Tyson has refused prefight drug tests, ignored referees and assaulted ring-side law enforcement officials during the last five years, Kuntz said. *AP*

Fatal shooting at ex-NBA star's home called suspicious

ALEXANDRIA TOWNSHIP, New Jersey—The shooting death of a limousine driver at the estate of former NBA star Jayson Williams was classified as suspicious by authorities, but Williams' lawyer called it an "unfortunate accident."

Costas Christofi, 55, was found in a bedroom with a shotgun wound to his chest early Thursday, acting Hunterdon County Prosecutor Steven C. Lember said.

The death was first reported to authorities as a suicide but was later classified as suspicious after a preliminary investigation by the medical examiner. Lember said forensic evidence found at the scene also indicated the death was not a suicide.

An autopsy was scheduled for later Friday.

Williams' lawyer, Joseph Hayden, would not elaborate on his description of the shooting.

"There is a death and there is an investigation, and Mr. Williams wants to know his rights and responsibilities," Hayden told The Star-Ledger of Newark for Friday's editions.

The shotgun used in the shooting belonged "on the property," prosecutor Steven C. Lember said. He wouldn't say if the gun was registered to Williams or if anyone else lives with him at the estate.

"I can't tell you specifically what the purpose of the shotgun was, but it was clearly a shotgun, and it belonged on the property," Lember said.

Montaña Jewels, Granny Goose win PBL openers

By Dennis U. Eroa

CEBU CITY—Hot shooting Mark Macapagal proved unstoppable as Montaña Jewels drubbed Hapee Toothpaste, 87-78, at the start of the Cebu Basketball Federation-PBL Challenge Cup Friday night at the New Cebu Coliseum here.

Blu Detergent King, however, wasn't as lucky, falling prey to the tenacious playing Granny Goose Tortillas, 77-74, to the delight of basketball-crazy Cebuanos.

Macapagal, an ace out of San Sebastian College, silenced local fans when he erupted with 34 points, even as hardworking Gary David and 6-foot-4 Jayman Misola provided Montaña the needed finishing kick to repulse the rallying Teeth Sparklers.

PBL chair Dioceldo Sy, commissioner Chino Trinidad, CBF president Jack Huang and Ana Freezers' Rudy Mendoza joined cheering Cebuanos in watching the inaugural games of this week-long tournament aiming to foster cooperation among Manila-based PBL squads and their Visayan counterparts.

Despite fielding a brand-new lineup lacking in practice, Blu, with Leo Isaac calling the shots, dominated Granny Goose for most of the way but the Detergent Kings were unprepared for a 5-foot-6 dynamo named Chris Daruca.

Blu was ahead, 45-36, at halftime.

After Tristan Codamon gave Blu its last taste of the lead, 74-72, Darica came to the Tortillos' rescue, burying five straight gift shots in the final quarter.

With Marlon Legaspi and new recruit Jacques Gottenbos hitting their shots, Blu surged to a 40-28 lead in the second quarter but wilted under tremendous pressure in the final 20 minutes of action.

Veterans Alex Cainglet, Sonny Toring and Daruca scored big baskets as Blu's lack of cohesion showed.

"The team has the talent, but it lacks maturity," said Isaac. We're still trying to play organized basketball."

Scores:

MONTANA 87—Macapagal 34, David 18, Misola 10, Mesina 9, Alfad 8, Valenzuela 6, Pua 3, Kalaw 2.

HAPEE 78—Laygo 18, Bona 12, Maloloy-on 10, Clar 9, David 7,. Raneses 7, Simon 6, Ferrolino 4, Jabagat 2, Garcia 2, Padilla 1.

Halftime: 45-29

GRANNY GOOSE 77—Daruca 23, Cainglet 16, Toring 11, Guerrero 9, Mutia 8, Duran 4, Victoria 4, De los Santos 2.

BLU 74—Legaspi 13, Gottenbos 112, Codamon 11, Roldan 8, Dimaunahan 7, De la Cuesta 6, Latoreno 6, Prior 5, Calo 5, Mendez 2.

Halftime: 36-45.

'Golf' features Shaw

GOLF Power features today the final segment of the two-part series on the highlights of the 13th Bill Shaw Memorial Golf Classic.

The two-day event held recently at Wack Wack was participated in by 177 members and their partners.

Also featured on the show are golf tips and the regular dose of trivia, definition of golf terms and rules.

Golf Power, now on its sixth year, is aired every Sunday, 3:30 p.m., on IBC-13 and is hosted by golf professional Gerard Cantada. The weekly golf program is produced by Joe Cantada Sports. Absolute, Milo and Outback Steakhouse sponsor this week's program.

SPORTSWATCH

Padres' player killed

PHOENIX, Arizona, February —San Diego Padres outfielder Michael Darr was one of two people killed in an early-morning car crash near the team's training facility on Friday. Padres pitching prospect, Ben Howard, also suffered minor injuries in the roll-over smash, the team said. "Tragedies such as this burst the bubble and remind us how vulnerable we are and how precious life is," said Padres general manager Kevin Towers. The alcohol-related accident occurred at 1:55 am local time about five kilometers north of the stadium where the Padres practice. Darr, 25, and Howard, were in a sports utility vehicle heading west on highway 101 that drifted over the center line and rolled over several times before landing on its roof. *AFP*

Venus beats Italian

WILLIAMS

ANTWERP, Belgium—Wimbledon and US Open champion Venus Williams reached the semi-finals of the $585,000 Antwerp Open here on Friday - and the victory proved to be a lot easier than she would have thought. The top-seeded American was leading eighth-seeded Silvia Farina Elia, 6-3, 0-1, when the Italian was forced to retire with a right leg injury.

Taniguchi grabs lead

LOS ANGELES— The Nissan Open was supposed to showcase the local talent but somebody forgot to tell that to Japan's Toru Taniguchi. Taniguchi, 34, heads a larger than normal cast of international stars that are stealing the limelight at the Riviera Country Club course. Taniguchi shot a four-under-par 67 on Friday to top the leaderboard, marking the second-straight day an international player has led in the $3.7-million PGA tournament. Taniguchi is nine-under after two rounds and has a one-stroke lead over Sweden's Jesper Parnevik and Americans Scott McCarron, Len Mattice and Brad Faxon.

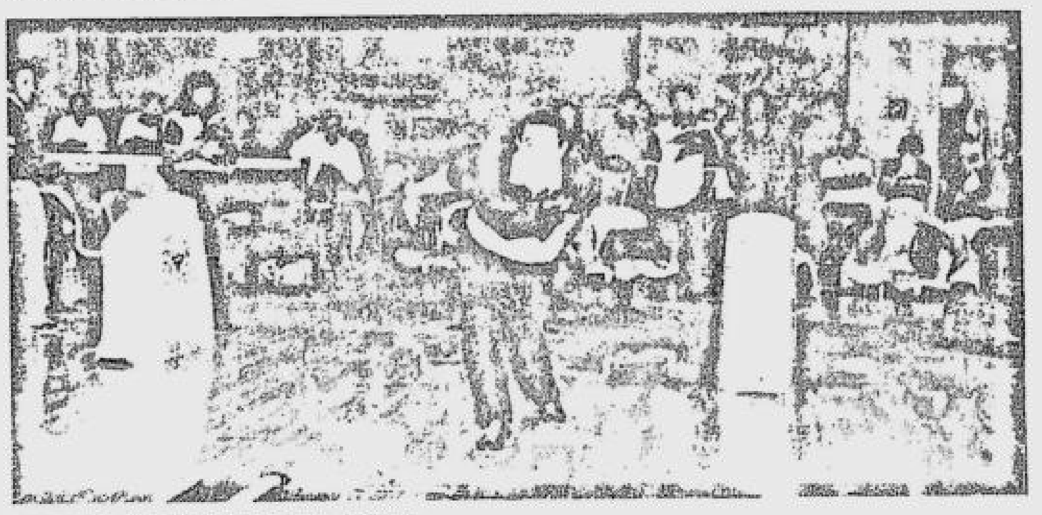
BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1991, Ateneo notched a 1-2-3 finish to win the Interschools Shooting Competition at the Marines Firing Range in Fort Bonifacio. Also today in 1992, Robert Pactolerin shot a 72 and scored a four-stroke victory over American Todd Hamilton in the 9th Masters at Villamor.

Seles wins

DOHA—Top-seeded Monica Seles, of the United States, stormed into the semi-finals of the 170,000-dollar Qatar Open with a blistering straight sets victory over Australia's Nicole Pratt here on Friday.

The world number seven, playing in Doha for the first time, raced to a 6-1, 6-0 win to set up a clash with another Australian Alicia Molik in Saturday's semifinals.



PAENG PACES POWER BOWL

Paeng Nepomuceno dishing out his league-leading form in the Perfect 3000 Challenge at Power Bowl that stakes from P3,000 to P150,000. Power Bowl is located at the third floor of the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center. The four-time World Champion has 1,957 pinfalls as he has recovered from a wrist injury that required surgery. He is now seeded to the 2002 Philippine National Bowling Team.

Elorde presents 96 rounds today

PHILIPPINE flyweight No. 3 Junie Coma and RP superfly No. 8 contender Roy Tarazona slug it out today in the main event of the Elorde International Productions' initial offering.

The 96-round boxing extravaganza will start at 6 p.m. at the Grand Flash Ballroom of the Elorde Sports Complex in Parañaque City.

Also featured in the undercards are RP minimum weight No. 9 Steve Dimaisip, former bantamweight champ Joel Junio and the comebacking Eric Jamili, former World Boxing Organization straw weight titlist.

Elorde International Productions, headed by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde, has brought spectacular bouts last year featuring International Boxing Federation champion Manny Pacquiao and former World Boxing Council flyweight champion Malcolm Tuñacao.

Lewis: Tyson needs psychiatric help

LONDON—Lennox Lewis said Friday he would give Mike Tyson "the whipping he deserves" in June but only if the American gets some psychiatric help first. World heavyweight champion Lewis was scheduled to defend his World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation titles against Tyson in Las Vegas on April 6. But that original match never came to fruition after a brawl at a pre-fight press conference led the Nevada State Athletic Commission to deny Tyson a license. *AFP*

Two gifts

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I GOT two special gifts on Valentine's Day. One came from Iggy Clavecilla, Andy Dumlao and Zammy Zamora. The other came from America.

The first one first.

Iggy and Andy are my golf buddies. Iggy, like me, is a Beatlemaniac. Andy is also a Beatlemaniac. But unlike Andy, Iggy and I do Beatles and play instruments—Iggy the organ (he loves his Parfisa more than his putter) and me the rhythm guitar and drums. Andy loves hearing Beatle music.

Zammy?

Well, he plays the lead guitar. He used to be the lead guitarist of Spirit of '67, Ateneo's contribution to Beatlemania. Zammy left the band after he put up the National Sports Grill, a lovely joint at Greenbelt Makati whose motif is the stuff that sports buffs simply adore.

It was at the National Sports Grill where I finally saw the Spirit of '67 perform live for the first time. It was a gift from them. They conspired to bring me to the National Sports Grill on Feb. 13. Gerry Sy, Carmencita (Iggy's wife) and Sol Juvida were on our table that night as the Spirit of '67 did such Sixties hits like Bus Stop, Drive My Car, There's A Kind of Hush, Twist and Shout and Me and Mrs. Jones with gusto. Performing that night were Candy Dizon, Cholo Santiago, Maso Diez, Jake Arellano, Bimbo Santiago, Nato Canlas, Steve de Jesus and Arnold Austria. They were excellent, to say the least.

Take a bow, Sonny (Alvendia). Your band's come a long way, indeed, from those halcyon days of '92. Hopefully, I'll see the band perform again on March 13 at the National Sports Grill.

Oh, yes, I almost forgot. I and Zammy (Zamora) the NSG owner have also one thing in common: We have the same first name—Alfonso (ahem!). How I wish Zammy, Iggy and I can jam one of these days. Who knows, we can be the front-act of the Spirit of '67 someday? I can invite Conrad de Quiroz; he can play rhythm while I take care of the drums. Conrad cannot only write, he can also sing. He loves the Beatles, too. A favorite of his is Blackbird.

And now the second gift.

The letter came from the United States. It was accompanied by a made-for-computer CD containing all of the Beatles' 36 albums, including double albums (Whitle Album and Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band). It was sent by Dennis R. Mendoza, a Beatlemaniac (bless his soul). Here:

"We seem to share a number of things besides our surname, province of origin, love for golf and the Beatles.

"After reading your column about 'your band' at Café Emmanuel along Kalayaan Avenue in Quezon City, my friends and I went there to see you perform. You didn't sing that night. We learned you were out-of-town or something. After that, we became regular habitues. We even hired the services of the band twice. In one party, we paired them with Toto Ealdama and the Moonstrucks. Needless to say, they upstaged Toto's band.

"By the way, the classmate who gave me the CD was a band leader himself: Eddie Nicolas. Eddie was, until his death, the lead singer of the Rockin' Revival. He started off as the drummer of the original Moonstrucks and then went on to play with the Hi Jacks and a number of other bands. By his own account, the high point of his career as a drummer came when no less than Bob Bogle chose him to be the drummer of the Ventures in a series of shows that the Ventures did here back in the 80s under the aegis of RJ Jacinto. I miss my former seatmate and his heart thumping, blood-thinning rendition of Little Bee.

"You have been described as a McCartney sound-alike. I have been told that I am a Lennon sound-alike. What say we meet up at Café Emmanuel one Friday evening to bring the house down?

"I hope this letter finds you well and that the CD will bring you hours of listening pleasure. Warmest regards."

Deal. Call me when you hit town and I'll come running.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Senate President's Cup stakes ₱1M prize today

THE YEAR'S first P1-million horserace takes center stage at the San Lazaro Hippodrome as the Senate Spouses Foundation Inc. (SSFI) and the Manila Jockey Club Inc. (MJCI) spearhead the inaugural running of the "Senate President's Cup," highlight event of the 5-day "Karera Para sa Puso" Racing Carnival.

Sponsored by telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance and Telephone Company (PLDT) and Smart Communications, today's marquee event headlines MJCI's spectacular 13-race program which also features the P500,000.00 "San Miguel Beer Cup" as the principal lead-up stakes race.

"In behalf of the SSFI, I would like to thank all of those who have extended their support in making possible and ensuring the success of this unprecedented fund-raising project. We would of course like to acknowledge the generous sponsorships and pledges of PLDT, Smart Communications, San Miguel Beer, PCSO, Casino Filipino, GSIS, DBP, Allied Banking Corporation, Bank of Commerce and the Manila Bulletin which would now make possible the realization of SSFI's plans to set up centers for the elderly and sick throughout the country," said SSFI president Milagros Drilon.

'Partida' for Wind Blown's rivals

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

BATANGAS Entry is slated to run in the Senate President's Cup today. Will he compete again in the First Gentleman Silver Cup next Sunday?

Rumors have been circulating that Batangas Entry's connections are pulling their horse out from the Feb. 24 event because they are protesting the weight-for-age scheme to be applied by the Philracom.

A second FGSC sans Batangas Entry would mean another easy win for Wind Blown.

What *kareristas* want to see is another meeting between the 2001 Horse of the Year and the speedball who nearly upset him in the Classic Open two months ago.

We hope the Philracom can still find remedy to this.

* * *

Here's a timely letter indeed:

Dear Mr. Villanueva,

Before anything else, I'd like to commend you for having a space like "One Winner" which an ordinary *karerista* like me can use as a tool for expressing my views/comments regarding the various issues in local horseracing.

I've been a racing fan for so many years already. Of late, I've been keenly following the exploits of Wind Blown and the other horses whom he simply outclasses.

*Meron sana akong nais na i-*suggest sa ating racing officials as far as assigning weights to Wind Blown and his rivals is concerned.

Since Wind Blown is a lot bigger, and faster of course, why not give the rest some form of *partida* in coming stakes races by giving Wind Blown a heavier handicap weight, say an additional two-kilo to the usual 59-kilo weight assigned him in his previous runs.

I believe di mahihirapan dito si Wind Blown. As we all know, yung mga nakaraang champion horses na tumakbo dito like Real Top, Marangal, Bulldozer, Strong Material, lahat yan nagdala ng mga 60 kilos or more.

If my memory serves me right, *maging si Marangal yata eh nagdala ng* 65 kilos *pero okey lang sa may-ari nitong si Ginoong* Ochie Santos na during that time eh hepe pa yata ng Philracom.

I repeat, that was just a suggestion.

Again, thank you very much Mr. Villanueva for giving way to my letter. More power and *mabuhay ang bayang kareristas*!

Romualdo L. Mallari
Bgy. Citrus, SJDM, Bulacan

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RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro
By Mr. 999

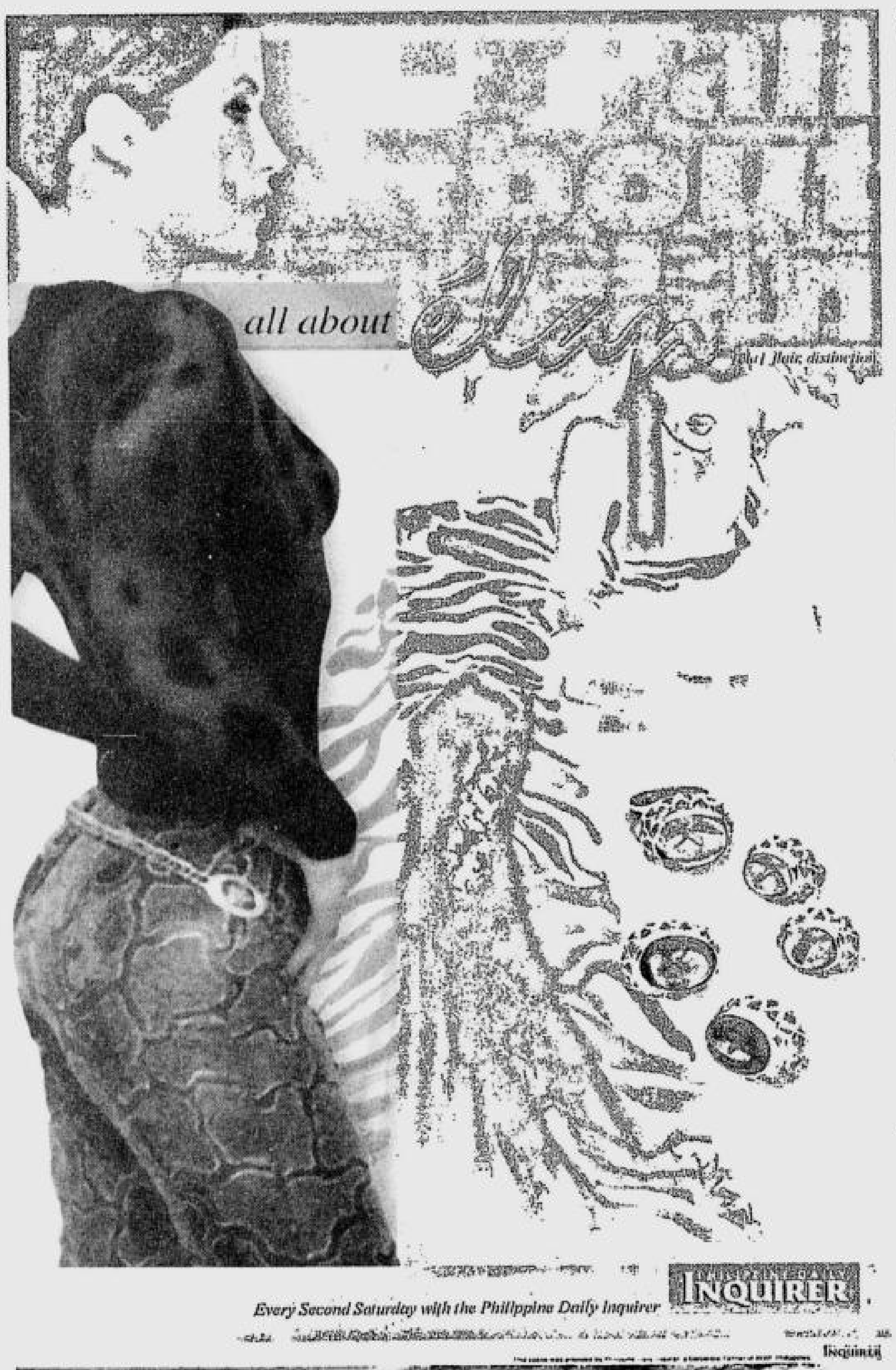
Race 1—1. Jerold's Dream 2. Flying Fortress 3. El Bulldog
Race 2—1. Sharp Bullet 2. Bulakeña/Petro Dollar 3. Shooting Star/Dandansoy 4. Eden's Quest
Race 3—1. Majestic Ruler 2. Star Sapphire/Glory Allelujia 3/ Enseguida
Race 4—1. Security Risk 2. Dixie Dancer 3. Profitable
Race 5—1. The Fox 2. Ilocandia Slew 3. High Roller 4. Kiwi Rose 5. Hazmoore 6. Gifted Guest
Race 6—1. Power Corrupts 2. Lucky El 3. Hemisphere
Race 7—1. Batangas Entry 2. Lyonnais 3. Charlemagne
Race 8—1. Umaatikabo 2. Golden Dave 3. Aly Sam 4. Noble House
Race 9—1. King Aldrin 2. Marginal Note 3. Tayp Ko Yan 4. Cristel Jay
Race 10—1. Bull Dancing 2. Air Express 3. Day and Night 4. Golden Disc 5. Winning Rose
Race 11—1. Rapid Strike 2. Men of Honor 3. Brazen Truth 4. Techno Blues
Race 12—1. Despedida 2. Party Princess 3. Strong Bird
Race 13—1. Ocean Friend 2. Above All 3. Santa Fe 4. Happy Return 5. Madam Aida 6. Alert One

Mayor's tourney March 1

REGISTRATION is now ongoing for the Cebu City Mayor's Cup Age Group Tennis Championships slated March 1-3 at the Suncase Tennis Club. Deadline of entry is on Feb. 28 at 2 p.m.

The event is organized by coach Ronald "Onay" Martin and supported by Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmena, councilor Sylvan "Jack" Jakosalem, Cebu City Sports Commission chair Jonathan Guardo, Accel sportsgear and Alibor Phils.

Players may register with Martin (0917-9764917), Godfrey Caliao (0919-231-5991), Loida Mallare (5256434) and Zaias (0322311089).



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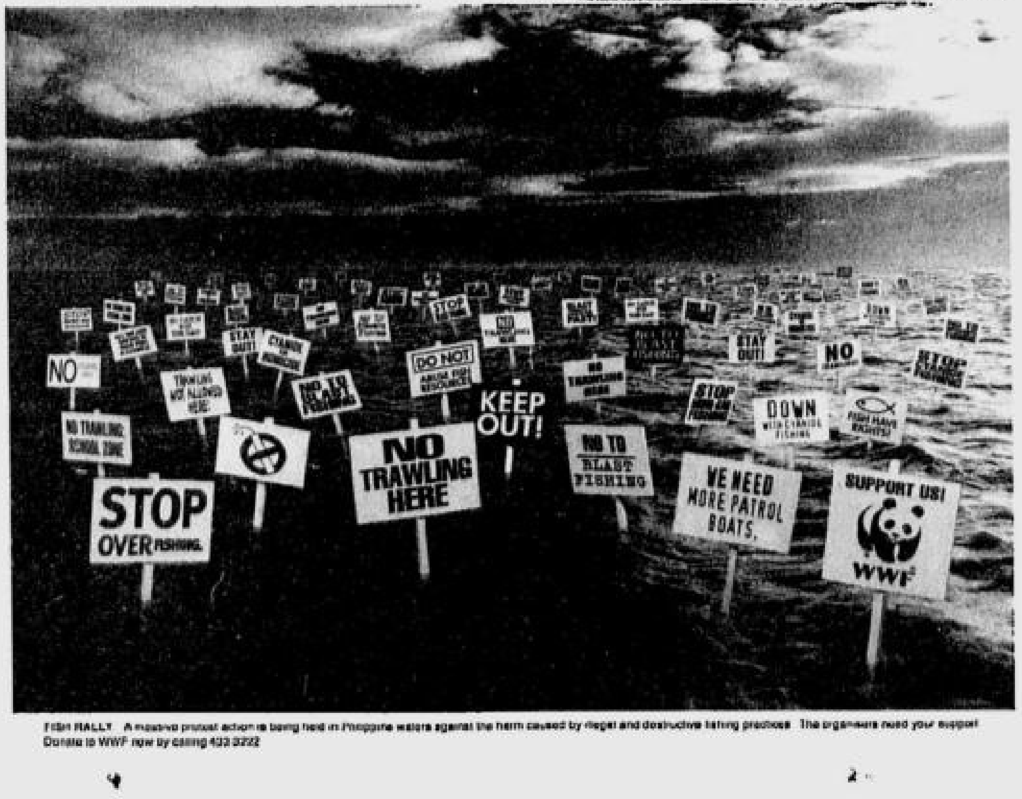

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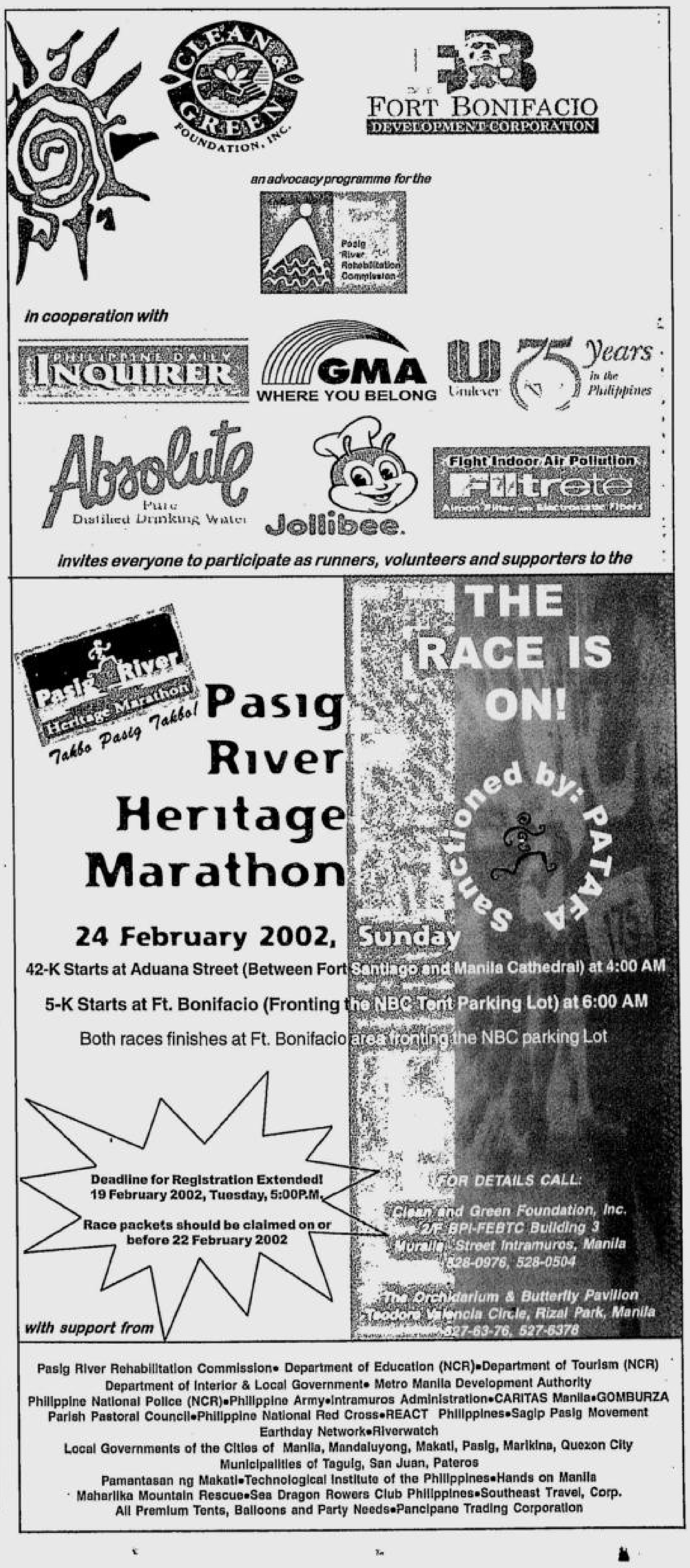

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Pasig River Heritage Marathon Takbo Pasig Takbo!
Pasig River Heritage Marathon
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Sanctioned by: PATAFA
24 February 2002, Sunday
42-K Starts at Aduana Street (Between Fort Santiago and Manila Cathedral) at 4:00 AM
5-K Starts at Ft. Bonifacio (Fronting the NBC Tent Parking Lot) at 6:00 AM
Both races finishes at Ft. Bonifacio area fronting the NBC parking Lot
Deadline for Registration Extended!
19 February 2002, Tuesday, 5:00P.M.
Race packets should be claimed on or before 22 February 2002
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The Orchidarium & Butterfly Pavilion
Teodoro Valencia Circle, Rizal Park, Manila
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BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

US NCAA - Michigan State vs Purdue at 8 a.m., Pittsburgh vs West Virginia at 10 a.m. on ESPN

*Sunday*SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● *Assistant Editor* **Edwin M. Villanueva**

GREGORIO OUTWITS BAYNO

Hotdogs tame Phone Pals

GAMES TODAY: (Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—FedEx vs Red Bull
6 p.m.—Shell vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

VETERANS Ronnie Magsanoc and Alvin Patrimonio recalled their old spunk as Purefoods outplayed Talk N Text, 92-89, last night in the PBA Samsung Governors Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

Magsanoc provided the leadership while Patrimonio converted key shots down the stretch as the Hotdogs recovered from a 15-point deficit to register the victory.

Patrimonio, a 14-year veteran, finished with 15 points while the 36-year-old Magsanoc made seven points to complement imports Derrick Brown and Leonard White, who combined for 60 points.

Purefoods assistant coach Ryan Gregorio, however, came out as the biggest winner of all.

The former University of the Philippines Maroon had won a personal battle against the Phone Pals and lifted the spirits of local coaches who protested the naming of American Bill Bayno as head coach of Talk N Text.

Gregorio, acting as interim coach in the absence of Purefoods mentor Eric Altamirano, was fired by Talk N Text as one of its assistant coaches in 1999.

Altamirano lent his coaching skills to the RP training pool and will call the shots for the Hapee-RP Team.

After outwitting Bayno's strategies on the floor, Gregorio said he would start filling up an application form to become a member of the 500-strong Basketball Coaches of the Philippines.

Despite the Phone Pals' setback, the BCAP remained firm on pursuing a legal battle against the ascension of Bayno.

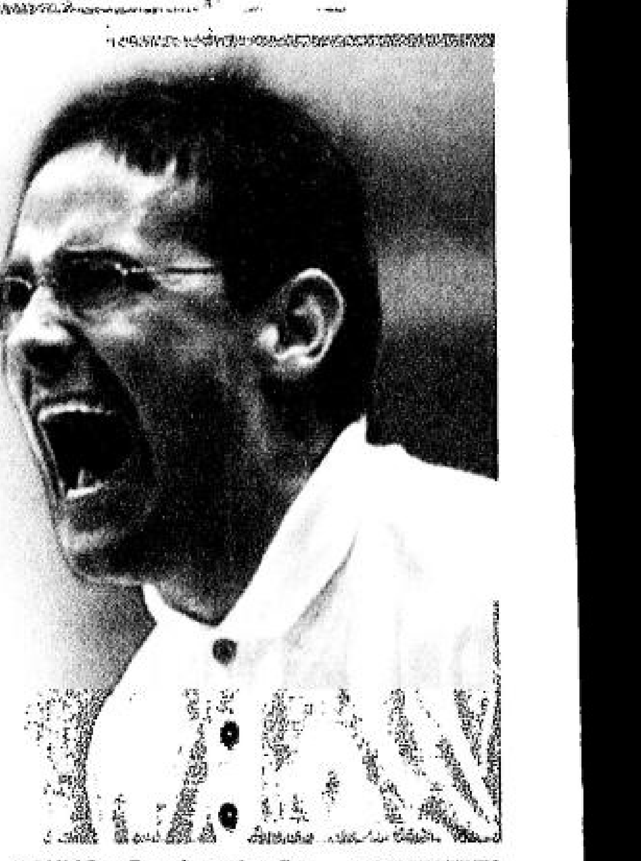
BCAP president Chito Narvasa said they would immediately question the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation and the Games and Amusements Board upon witnessing Bayno call the plays for the Phone Pals yesterday.

In the second game, Hapee–RP Team held Sta. Lucia Realty scoreless for almost four minutes to prevail, 63-61, and share the lead with Coke, Red Bull, Selecta-RP Team, Alaska and Purefoods.

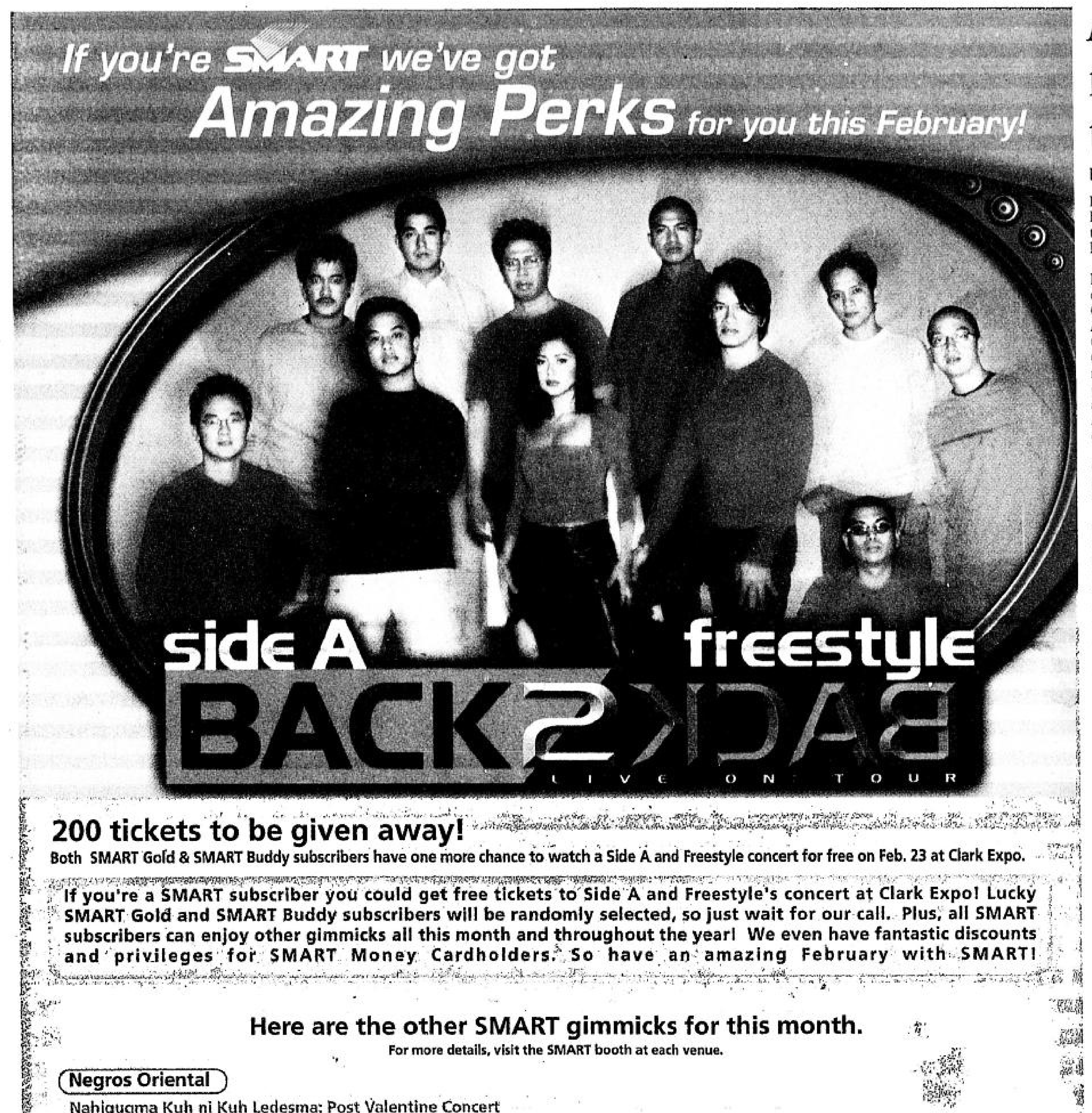
PUREFOODS 92—Brown 32, White 28, Patrimonio 15, Evangelista 8, Magsanoc 7, Raymundo 2, Yee 0, Balingit 0, Yap 0.

TALK N TEXT 89—Honeycutt 28, Frahm 17, Pablo 13, Ejercito 9, Demape 8, Lago 7, Telan 5, Crisano 2, Evans 0.

Quarters: 26-28, 44-53, 67-73, 92-89.



BAYNO: Coach under fire. ERNIE SARMIENTO



If you're SMART we've got Amazing Perks for you this February!

side A freestyle BACK 2 BACK LIVE ON TOUR

200 tickets to be given away!

Both SMART Gold & SMART Buddy subscribers have one more chance to watch a Side A and Freestyle concert for free on Feb. 23 at Clark Expo.

If you're a SMART subscriber you could get free tickets to Side A and Freestyle's concert at Clark Expo! Lucky SMART Gold and SMART Buddy subscribers will be randomly selected, so just wait for our call. Plus, all SMART subscribers can enjoy other gimmicks all this month and throughout the year! We even have fantastic discounts and privileges for SMART Money Cardholders. So have an amazing February with SMART!

Here are the other SMART gimmicks for this month.

For more details, visit the SMART booth at each venue.

Negros Oriental

Nahigugma Kuh ni Kuh Ledesma: Post Valentine Concert
Feb. 27, Bais Auditorium. Reserved seats for the first 250 SMART subscribers and one companion each.

Baguio*

*Amazing Nights at 18 B. C.
Saturday, Feb. 23 at 18 B.C. Reserved seats for the first 10 SMART subscribers and one companion each. 10% off when you pay with SMART Money. Plus, enjoy a free special drink.

*Heart's for Peace
Feb. 28 to March 2, Pilgrims Bar. 60 free tickets for SMART subscribers plus 5% discount on any SMART Money purchase.

Watch out for more free invites, only for SMART subscribers.
*Promo period: Feb. 9 to March 2, 2002. You can only avail of the discounts and special privileges on the dates indicated above.
* Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0426 Series of 2002.

Plus, enjoy these great discounts and privileges when you pay with SMART Money!

SMART Money February Promos

- Marks & Spencer - Get a 15% discount on all wine purchases in all outlets (This excludes wines that are included in Marks & Spencer's in-store promo). Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0386 Series of 2002. Promo period: Feb. 6 - 28, 2002.
- Golden Blossoms, G/F NGR Bldg. South Superhighway cor. Casino St. Palanan, Makati - One free box of Ferrero Chocolates for every one dozen flowers purchased. Just call 843-6955 to order. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0474 Series of 2002. Promo period: Feb. 8 - 28, 2002.
- Mall Runner - This free service lets you make dinner reservations for two and pay in advance at Dish or at any Steak Town branch. Just call 845-2330 to 32 from Mondays to Fridays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. to enjoy a worry-free dinner! Offer good all this month at Dish, and until March 15, 2002 at Steak Town.
- Country Waffles, Eastwood - Get a free half waffle at Country Waffles Eastwood until March 4, 2002 just by paying with your SMART Money Card.

Fabulous SMART Money Perks

- Vudu, Cebu - 10% discount on food and drinks.
- Suburbia Bar, Malate, Manila - No more consumable fee on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 50% off on the consumable fee on Saturdays.
- IO Family KTV, Jupiter St., Makati - Free one hour for every two hours paid (Except on Fridays).
- Bistro Remedios, Malate, Manila - 5% discount on food and drinks.
- Cable Car, Glorietta - 15% discount on food purchases.
- Café Havana, Malate - 5% discount on food purchases.
- Café Ysabel, San Juan - 10% discount on food purchases.

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Assisi heads nat'l students tourney cast

By Roy Luarca

DEFENDING champion St. Francis of Assisi College heads the roster of participants in the 56th National Student's Basketball Championship to be held Feb. 24-March 2 in Roxas City.

Challenging the Doves in the tournament also known as the National Inter-Collegiate and Secondary Basketball Championships are Las Piñas College, also of the National Capital Region, Agusan Institute of Technology (Caraga), Luzon Colleges (Region I), Colegio La Purisima de Concepcion (Region VI), Salazar Institute of Technology (Region VII), Leyte Institute of Technology (Region VIII), University of Mindanao (Region XI) and STI Computer-Sultan Kudarat (Region XII). Another team from Bacolod City will complete the collegiate cast.

The Doves, who won the crown in San Pablo City last year, will be missing the services of 6-foot-8 center turned rookie pro Yancy de Ocampo, now with FedEx Express.

Basketball Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim thanked Region VI director Emmanuel Yap for agreeing to the transfer of venue despite very short notice. It was Yap and Basketball Referees Commission Tito dela Cruz, who coordinated with Roxas City Mayor Antonio del Rosario and the city council regarding the hosting of the National Students, which was originally slated in Ormoc City.

The high school competition will be held in Aklan Province with reigning titlist San Beda College of NCR and 2000 champion Iloilo Chinese Commercial High of Region VI leading the cast. The BAP has yet to announce the venue.

Other teams entered were Philippine College of Criminology (NCR), Agusan Institute of Technology (Caraga), Naga Hope Christian High School, Colegio La Purisima (Region VI), Salazar High School (Region VII), Ormoc City National High (Region VIII), Southern Colleges Zamboanga City (Region IX), Sacred Heart of Montessori (Region XI), Agro Foundation High School (Region XI) and Insular National High School (Region XII).

For his part, BAP president Tiny Literal expressed his gratitude to the BAP national board for pooling their resources together to be able to stage the event. Literal said a postponement would have meant a disruption of the BAP calendar as it is also slated to host the Southeast Asia Basketball Association championship in Cebu City next month.

PSC pushes for sports bill implementation

By Marc Anthony Reyes

MALACAÑANG has ordered the Philippine Sports Commission to hasten the implementation of Republic Act 9064—President Arroyo's first sports law—that will compensate the achievements of retired athletes through a multimillion-peso incentive scheme.

PSC chair Eric Buhain said they are already in the process of fine-tuning the Sports Incentive Act that would assure an Olympic medalist of at least P1 million in incentives.

"We all want to give our past athletic heroes rewards that are commensurate to the honors they have provided to the country," Buhain told the INQUIRER yesterday. "It's very painful to see former sporting heroes who are now living impoverished lives."

According to the law, qualified for incentives are past athletes who have won medals in the past Olympics, Asian Games, World Championships or its equivalent events like World Cup in bowling.

PSC deputy executive director Junie Dizon explained that the incentives will depend on the feats of the athletes but added that Olympic medalists like Onyok Velasco and Anthony Villanueva are practically assured of at least P1 million each based on the formula.

He added that record-breakers in Southeast Asian Games, starting from the 2001 Kuala Lumpur Games, are also assured of windfall if they were able to win medals in the process.

So far, only athletics Eduardo Buenavista and bowling's Botchok Rey make the cut in the SEAG category.

The law, based on the bill passed by Rep. Jim Lopez in 1996, was given a green light by the President last year and is expected to take full effect this month.

In fact, to ensure the implementation of the law, Ms Arroyo instructed the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. to separately finance the Sports Incentives Act apart from the monthly dues it gives the PSC through the National Sports Development Fund.

Medical admission test

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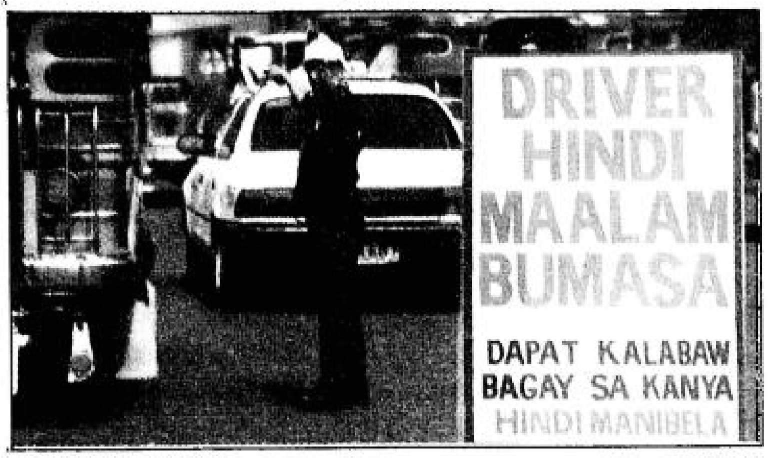

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Paref backs out of land deal

By Agnes E. Donato

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In a letter to Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr., officials of the Paref-Northfield Private School for Boys unilaterally withdrew from the memorandum of agreement, rendering the issue "moot and academic."

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Belmonte thanked Paref-Northfield for making the move.

"I think that's it," Belmonte said. "The local government will now have to develop the Greenmeadows property in another way."

Councilor Ariel Inton also commended Paref-Northfield for its "honorable move."

"We are not really opposed to the school project," Inton said. "What we did not like was the memorandum of agreement which was really disadvantageous to the city government," he said.

Residents of Greenmeadows Subdivision III, where the contested property is located, also expressed relief over the development, saying the withdrawal was a "wise decision on the part of Paref."

"We're thankful Paref finally saw it had no legs to stand on," said Peter Bautista, chair of the Coalition of Homeowners Association.

Bautista said that with the controversy over, residents could now concentrate on turning the space into a park, which was what the property was originally intended for.

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Paref officials earlier had the consent of the Ortigas group, the former owner of the sprawling 30-hectare property in Greenmeadows.

The Ortigas group donated the land to the government on condition that it would not be developed for commercial purposes.

But critics said Paref-Northfield officials would greatly profit from the deal.

"Ortigas stressed in its deed of donation that the property could not be used for a school like the one Paref was planning to construct," Bautista said.

Metro will not dump in Aeta village—MMDA

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

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"That one in Rizal (province) is hardly used," he said, referring to a landfill in Rodriguez town. "Why would we dump here?"

He explained that the invitation to join President Macapagal-Arroyo in a consultation with the Aetas came late, past noon on Thursday.

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METRO

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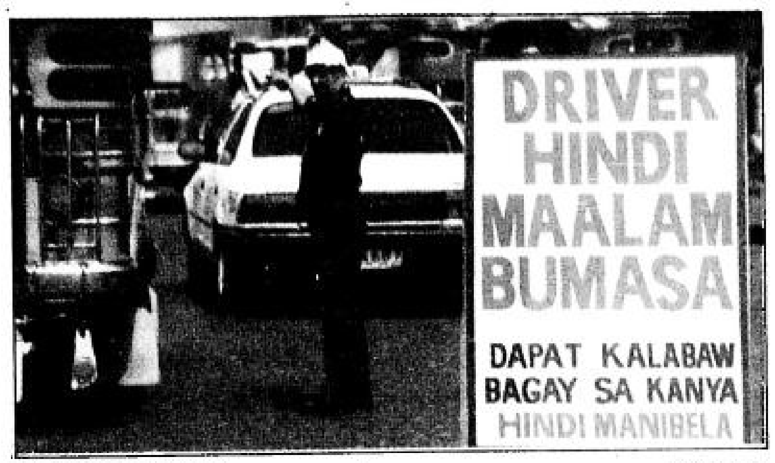

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1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 RIDING IN CARS
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
5 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 VANILLA SKY
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 KATE & LEOPOLD
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
11 KATE & LEOPOLD
12 FROM HELL

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 KATE & LEOPOLD
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 RIDING IN CARS
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 FROM HELL
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 THE OTHERS
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 VANILLA SKY

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 KATE & LEOPOLD
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 RIDING IN CARS
6 PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN
7 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 IKAW LAMANG . . .
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 VANILLA SKY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 VANILLA SKY
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 FROM HELL
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN
11 ISANG PANAGINIP
12 OCEAN'S ELEVEN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066782

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 VANILLA SKY
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
7 RIDING IN CARS
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
9 ISANG PANAGINIP
10 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 CLOSED
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 LORD OF THE RINGS
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 CLOSED
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 VANILLA SKY
6 ISANG PANAGINIP
7 CLOSED
8 BLACK HAWK DOWN

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 ISANG PANAGINIP
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 FROM HELL

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 IKAW LAMANG . . .

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 VANILLA SKY
6 LORD OF THE RINGS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN!
4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City

1
2

SOON TO OPEN!
2 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

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AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM - GREENBELT

Art Film

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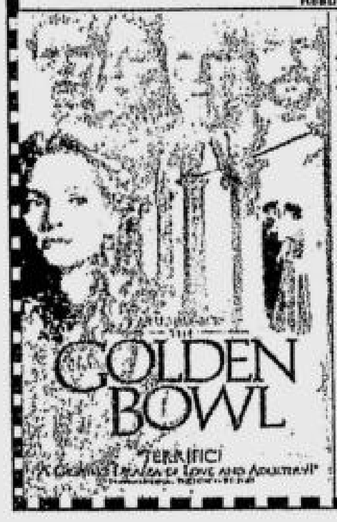
MTRCB RATING	▶	R Restricted	Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.



KATE BECKINSALE
ANGELICA HOUSTON
JEREMY NORTHAM

JAMES FOX
NICK NOLTE
& UMA THURMAN

THE GOLDEN BOWL

AN INTRICATELY PLOTTED TALE OF
THWARTED LOVE, BETRAYAL & RETRIBUTION

THE GOLDEN BOWL tells the story of an extravagantly rich American widower and his sheltered daughter, both of who marry only to discover that their respective mates are romantically entangled with each other. Set in England and Italy in the early 1900s, THE GOLDEN BOWL is adapted from the celebrated Henry James novel by the award-winning filmmaking team of producer Ismail Merchant, director James Ivory, and screenwriter Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

THE GOLDEN BOWL is Henry James' longest, most elaborate, and most ambitious novel, and in it, his writing reaches new levels of complexity and sophistication. James' themes are timeless and universal, as he artfully explores the problems of love and marriage.

Special thanks to:

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MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

EMAIL: mmta@asia.com

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 (DTS) OCEAN'S ELEVEN
4 GOLD (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 GOLD (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
6 GOLD (SDDS) KATE & LEOPOLD
7 GOLD (DOLBY) RIDING IN CARS
8 IKAW LAMANG. . .
9 IKAW LAMANG. . .
10 FROM HELL

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1 RESERVED
2
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4
5
6 (DTS)
Golden Pearl THX

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 FROM HELL
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 KAULAYAW

METROPOLIS star
Tel. 850 4285

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
2 ISANG PANAGINIP
3 IKAW LAMANG .
4 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
5 KAULAYAW
6 VANILLA SKY
7 RESERVE
8 RESERVE

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) Tel. 7512010 to 13

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 FINAL ANSWER

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1 RESERVED
2 HALIK SA LUPA
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
A COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG
3 RESERVED
4 KAULAYAW

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8598

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2
3
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
9 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2 IKAW LAMANG . .

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1 IKAW LAMANG . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 (SDDS) RIDING IN CARS
5 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
6 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 KAULAYAW
9 BLACK HAWK DOWN

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG .
3 KAULAYAW
4 ISANG PANAGINIP
5 (SDDS) BLACK HAWK DOWN
6 IKAW LAMANG . .
7 (DOLBY) RIDING IN CARS
8 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 KAULAYAW
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
5 (SDDS) VANILLA SKY

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1 IKAW LAMANG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1 IKAW LAMANG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson HALIK SA LUPA
Lords HALIK SA LUPA
Jennet

THE MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3 IKAW LAMANG .

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

Baclaran LRT LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)
2

Berma
tel 879.2029

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 REBULOSYONARYO
2 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DOLBY) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 HEARTS IN ATLANTIC

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 IKAW LAMANG...
2 (DOLBY) HEARRTS IN ATLANTIC
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 IKAW LAMANG

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 FINAL ANSWER
2 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 METRO TOWN
TEL. (045) 9821729 (Tarlac)

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 BLACK HAWK DOWN
3 (DOLBY) VANILLA SKY
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 HALIK SA AKING LUPA
3 KAULAYAW
4 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) HEARTS IN ATLANTIC
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 KAULAYAW
5 HUSTLER

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 KAULAYAW

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1 BLACK HAWK DOWN
2 IKAW LAMANG . .
3 AMERICAN ADOBO

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 HUSTLER
3 RESERVE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4008

1 (DTS) IKAW LAMANG . . .
2 (DTS) COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 KAULAYAW
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 BEHIND ENEMY LINES

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 MAY PAGIBIG PA KAYA
3 THE OTHERS
4 IKAW LAMANG

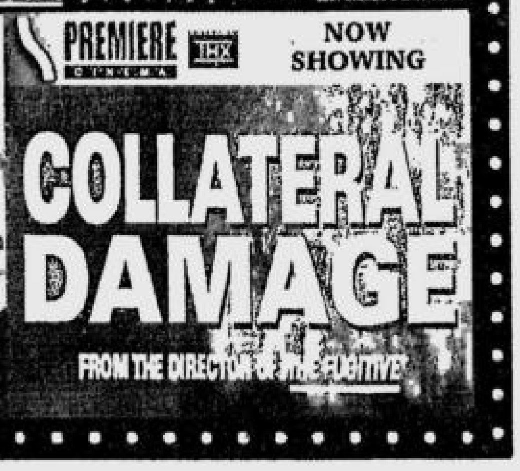
Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) SPY GAME
2 IKAW LAMANG . . .
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
4 (DTS ES) ZOOLANDER

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL



MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

galleria
632-9115-16 /633-7641 loc. 979

1 THX COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
7 KATE & LEOPOLD
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .
9 FROM HELL
10 BLACK HAWK DOWN

ermita
526-7809 to 12

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 VANILLA SKY
3 IKAW LAMANG . . .
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 KATE & LEOPOLD
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE

metro east -PASIG
682-8193 / 8080

1 RIDING IN CARS
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 IKAW LAMANG. . .
4 KATE & LEOPOLD
5 FROM HELL
6 IKAW LAMANG. . .
7 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
8 VANILLA SKY

novaliches
935-2209 to 30

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 BLACK HAWK DOWN
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 KATE & LEOPOLD
7 IKAW LAMANG . . .
8 IKAW LAMANG . . .

imus
(046) 471-8188

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 RIDING IN CARS
5 IKAW LAMANG . . .
6 IKAW LAMANG . . .

bacolod
(034) 441-0453 / 0459

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 ISANG PANAGINIP
4 LORD OF THE RINGS
5 OCEAN'S ELEVEN
6 FINAL ANSWER

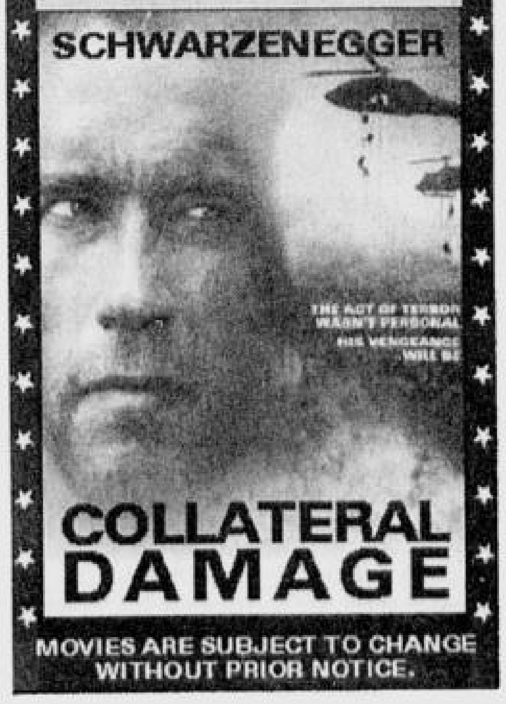
iloilo
(033) 336-8077 / 8078

1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
3 VANILLA SKY
4 AMERICAN ADOBO
5 MAY PAG IBIG PA KAYA
6 BLACK HAWK DOWN

star mills-
San Fernando, PAMPANGA

soon to open
with 6 NEW
state-of-the-art cinemas
THX

NOW SHOWING:



MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

E-Place presents male fashion show

"ZOOM on Men . . . Undress Me" is a male fashion show event presented by Entertainment Place every Monday night this month at E-Place 195-A Tomas Morato, QC.

It is a night filled with classical and elegant yet artistically made clothes by various designers from the Philippine Academy of Fashion Design (PAFD).

Stand-up comedians host the night.

The fashion show features 11 gorgeously young professional models from prestigious agencies. They have modeled different clothes from formal to casual wear, summer clothing which includes trunks and skinny underwear all designed by Nosh Reyes and Armando Fabia.

This male fashion event was made possible by Edgar Mangahas, who happens to own the Entertainment Place (E-Place) and other popular night haunts and restaurants.

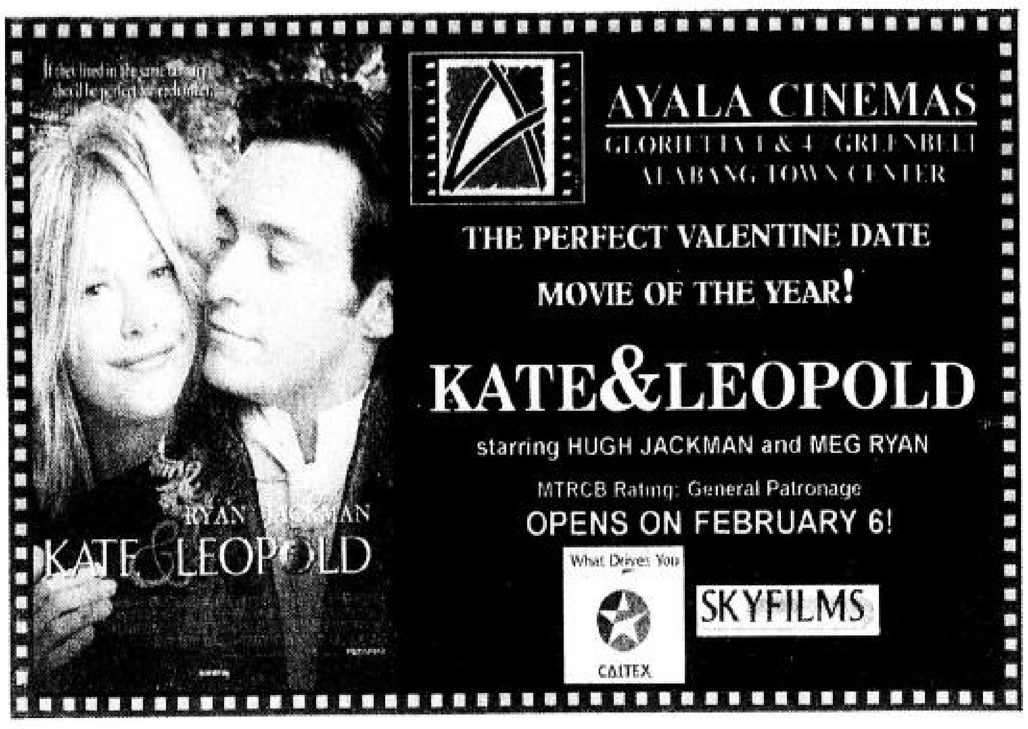
In line with his objective, he is fully committed to bring the concept of the show to its highest level of entertainment.

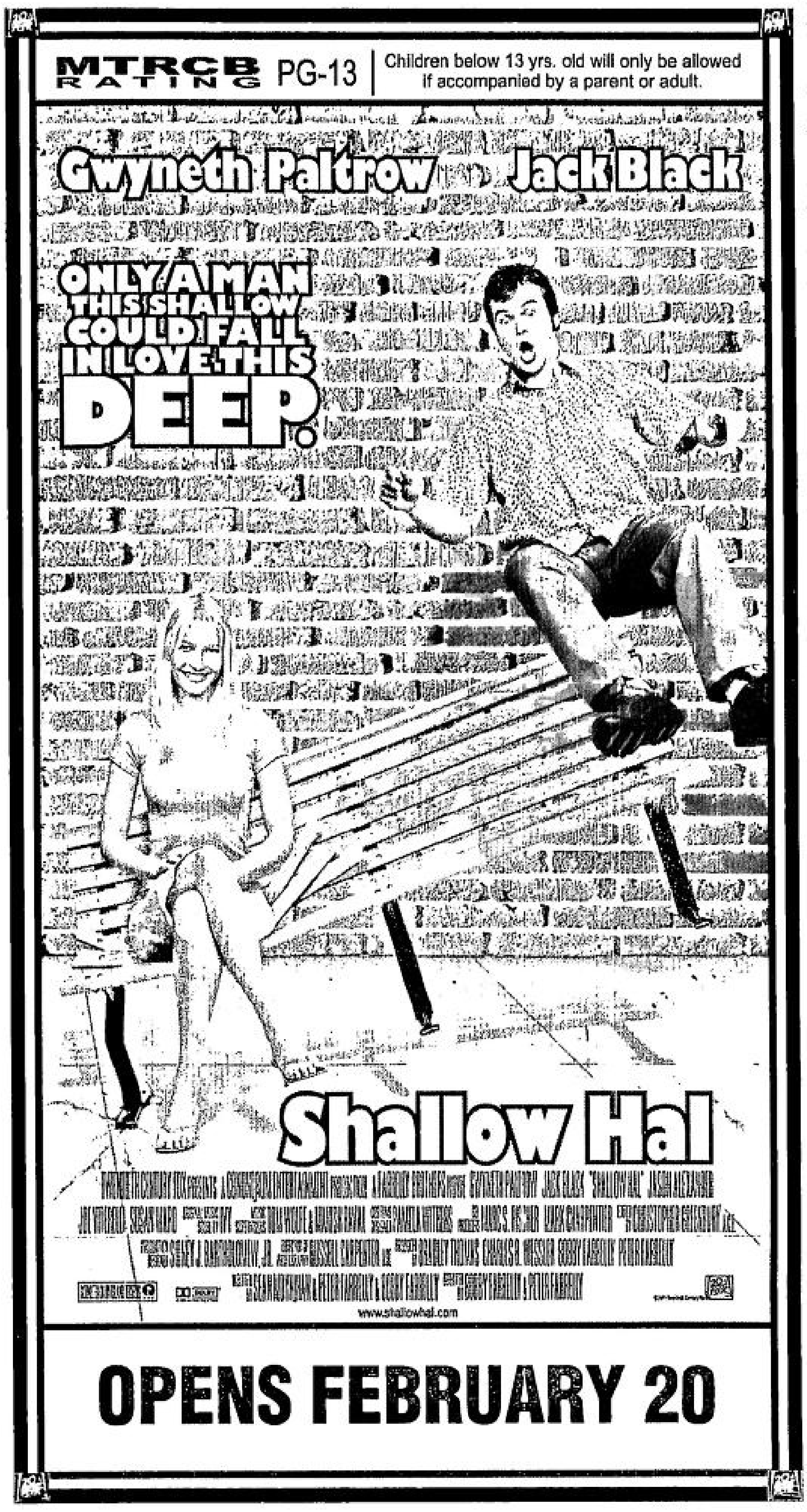
E-Place is also a sing-along bar with stand-up comedians from Monday to Saturday. There are also function rooms for different special shows or event.

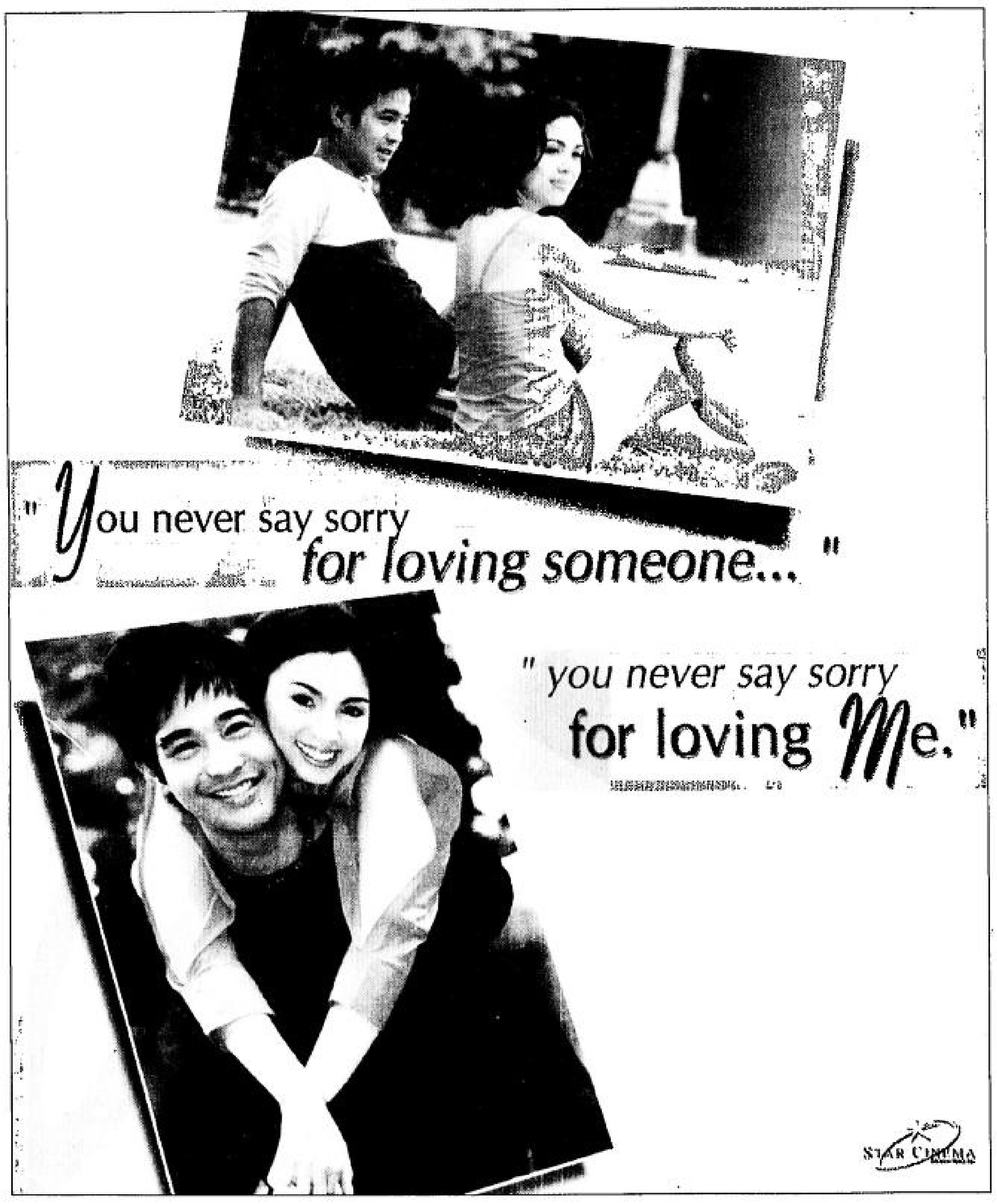
Monday night fashion show is directed by Tom Molina. Make-Up by Lito Cinco and hosts are Richard Pinlac, Shine and Jun.

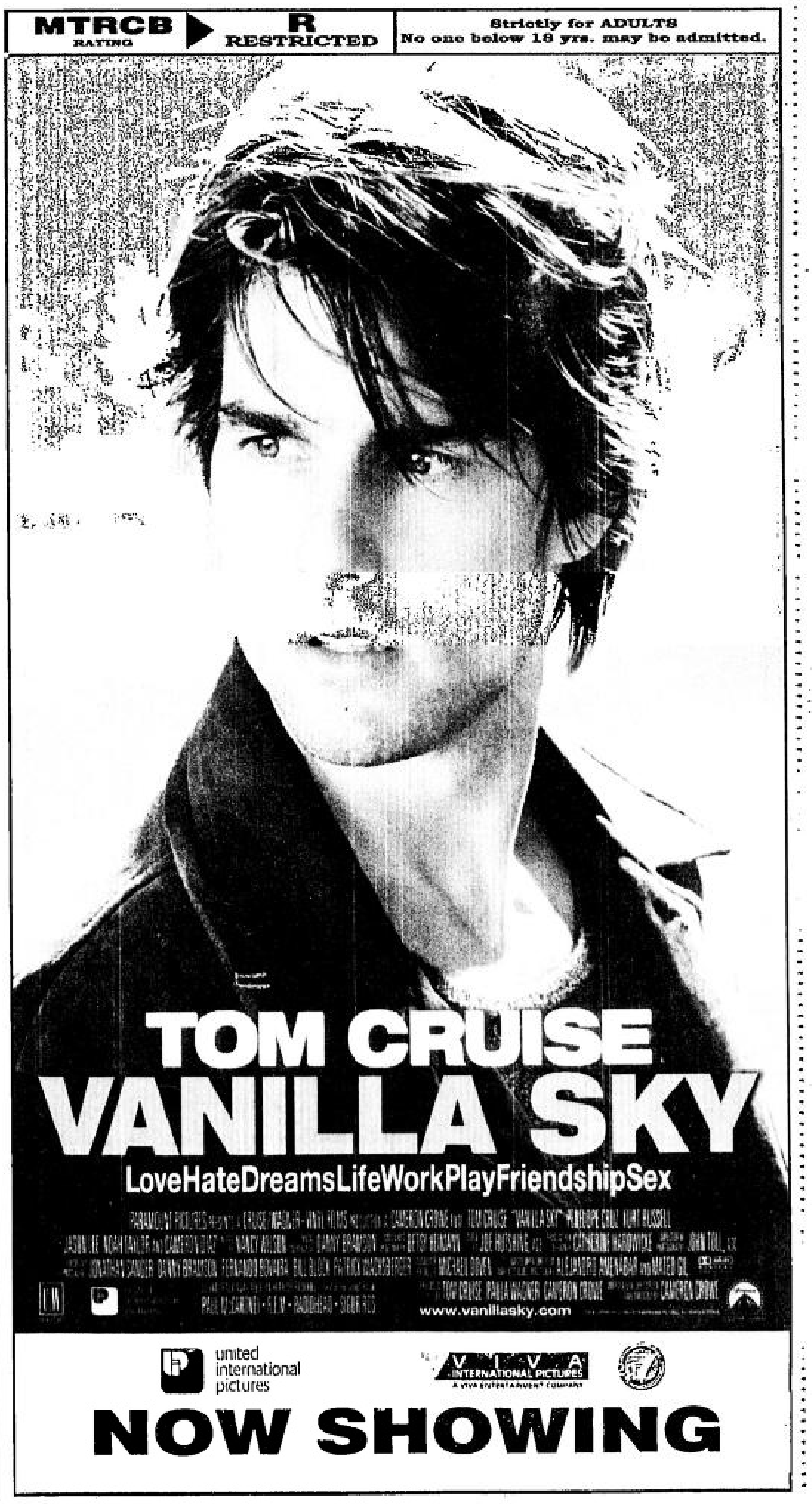
Show time is 9 p.m.

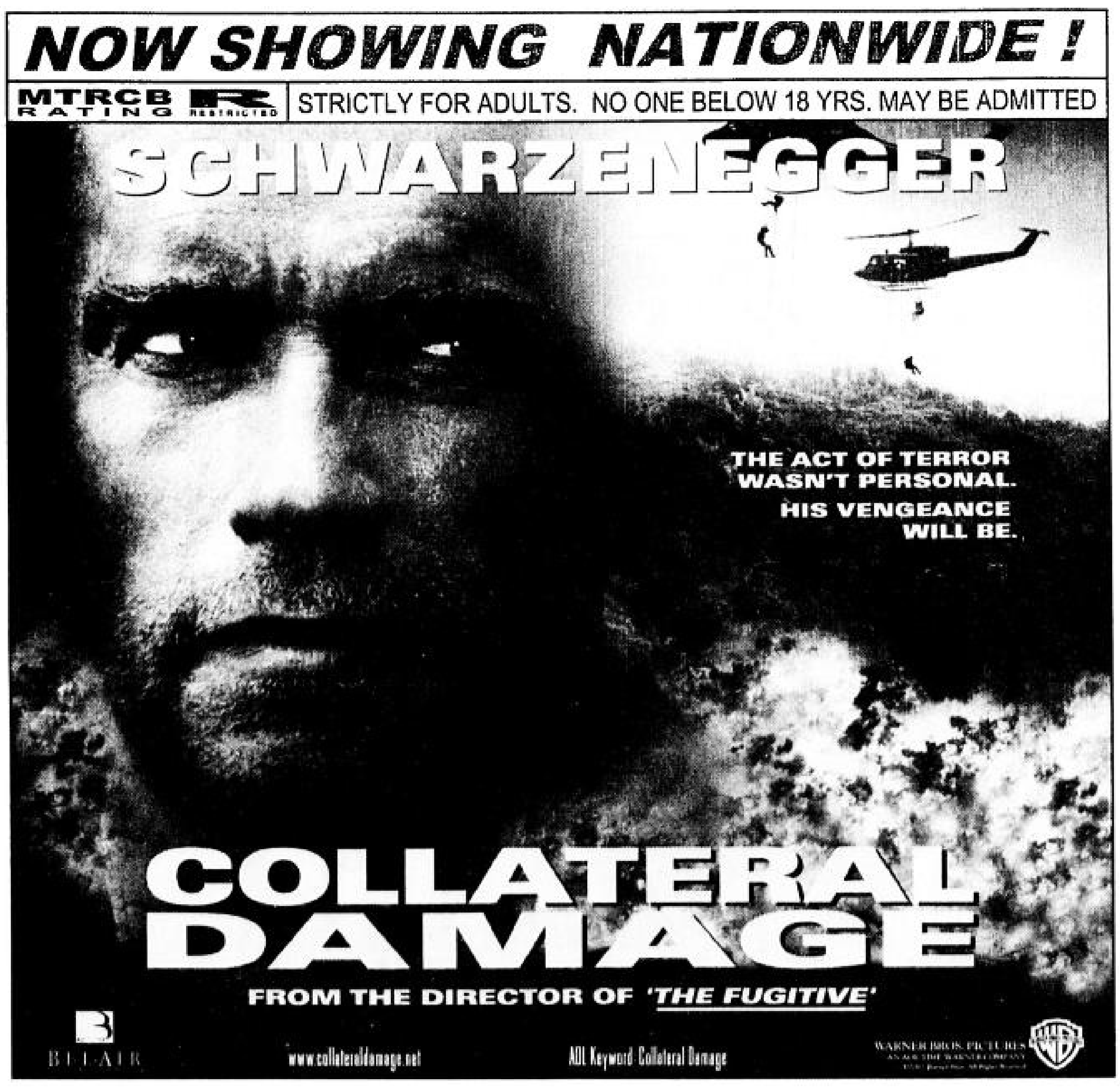
For reservations, call 412-6413 or 412-6421.


AYALA CINEMAS
GLORIETTA 1 & 4 · GREENBELT
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
THE PERFECT VALENTINE DATE
MOVIE OF THE YEAR!
KATE&LEOPOLD
starring HUGH JACKMAN and MEG RYAN
MTRCB Rating: General Patronage
OPENS ON FEBRUARY 6!
What Drives You
CALTEX
SKYFILMS


MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
Gwyneth Paltrow Jack Black
ONLY A MAN THIS SHALLOW COULD FALL IN LOVE THIS DEEP.
Shallow Hal
www.shallowhal.com
OPENS FEBRUARY 20


"You never say sorry for loving someone..."
"you never say sorry for loving Me."
STAR CINEMA


MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
TOM CRUISE
VANILLA SKY
LoveHateDreamsLifeWorkPlayFriendshipSex
www.vanillasky.com
united international pictures
VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY
NOW SHOWING


NOW SHOWING NATIONWIDE !
MTRCB RATING R RESTRICTED | STRICTLY FOR ADULTS. NO ONE BELOW 18 YRS. MAY BE ADMITTED
SCHWARZENEGGER
THE ACT OF TERROR WASN'T PERSONAL. HIS VENGEANCE WILL BE.
COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF *'THE FUGITIVE'*
BEL-AIR
www.collateraldamage.net
AOL Keyword: Collateral Damage
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	ISANG PANAGINIP
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	VANILLA SKY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RIDING IN CARS w/ BOYS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	BLACK HAWK DOWN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	IKAW LANG HANGGANG . . .
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MASAKIT HUWAG IPILIT / SOURCE OF THE NIGHT
ODEON	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
ODEON-2	KAULAYAW
ROBEN	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	JOY RIDE / KING OF GLADIATORS
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
REMAR	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
REMAR-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
B	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-2	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	REBULOSYONARYO
CINEMA-2	HALIK SA AKING LUPA
CINEMA-3	MARSHALL DICK
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FROM HELL
CINEMA-6	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-7	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-8	KUNG IKAW AY ISANG PANAGINIP
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	RIDING CARS w/ BOYS
CINEMA-12	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-14	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-15	IKAW LANG HANGGANG NGAYON
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
CINEMA-2	KATE & LEOPOLD
CINEMA-3	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-4	IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON
CINEMA-5	VANILLA SKY
CINEMA-6	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Vagina Monologues' staged in Cagayan de Oro

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 VANILLA SKY
11:10/ 1:50/ 4:30/ 7:10/ 10:00
R 18
CINEMA 2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
10:30/ 12:50/ 3:10/ 5:30/ 7:50/ 10:10
R 18
Matinee P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating P120.00 - After 5:00pm; Saturday, Sunday, Holidays.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-6573
MUSIC MUSEUM N°1
ALIKABOK (A Musical Musical)
February 21, 2002 3:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION PLS CALL . 721-6726 OR 721-0635

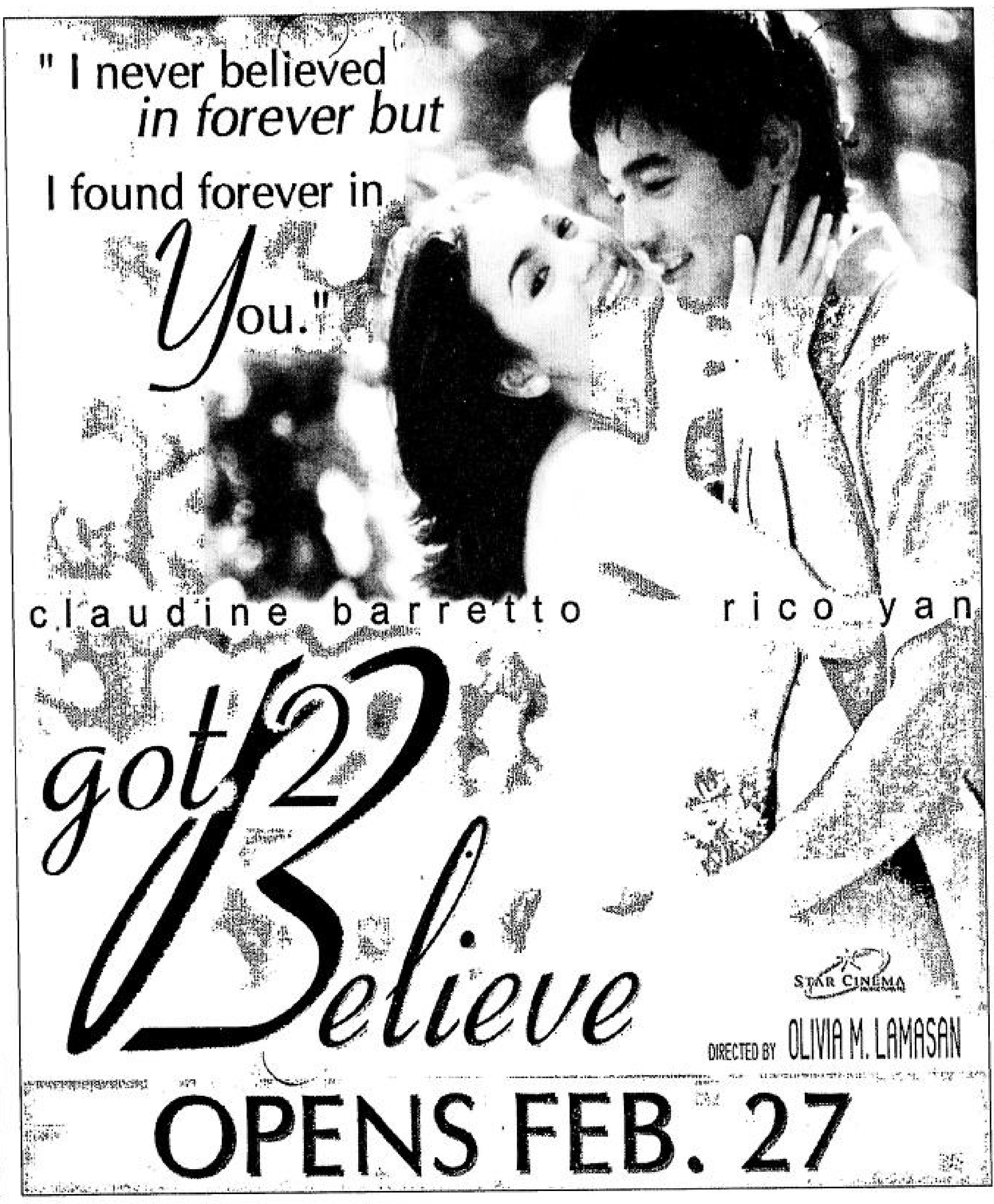
IT WAS a hot, hot Valentine's in Cagyan de Oro City when Monique Wilson performed in "The Vagina Monologues" at Lauremar Beach Hotel on Friday, Feb. 15, 2002.

The Filipino theater icon shared the stage with the city's theater greats, such as Daisy San Jose, Luchie Flores, Jenny Pabayo, Anselma Inot and Happy Ballesteros-Raagas.

"This is our way of celebrating women empowerment in this season of love, and to open our 2002 theater season," said Mozart Pastrano, artistic director of Pasundayag theater company, which produced the play in cooperation with Wilson's New Voice Company.

HOT VALENTINE. Director Mozart Pastrano poses with his cast of Cagayan de Oro's beautiful and talented women.

PHOTO BY TRISHA TAMPARONG.



" I never believed in forever but I found forever in You."
claudine barretto
rico yan
got 2 Believe
STAR CINEMA
DIRECTED BY OLIVIA M. LAMASAN
OPENS FEB. 27

The show also starred Pasundayag's sizzling talents Mikki Chan, Eleanor and Denise Aguilar, Giselle Tribaco, R'Love Rojas, Jamie Fournier, Micolle Ybañez, and Kate Neri.

Using the theme of wind and waves, Pastrano staged Eve Ensler's powerful, prize-winning play at Lauremar's swimming pool area—in collaboration with top fashion designer Melvin Lachica as costume designer, interior designer Park Abejuela as set designer, and entertainment producer Mike de la Cerna as technical director. Trisha Tamparong was official photographer.

"The play was part of a bigger event called 'V-Day at the Beach,' which included an art exhibit by Circulo de Arte, fun games and exciting auctions, a bonfire and poetry reading," beamed Pasundayag president Eileen San Juan.

V-Day is a global movement that helps anti-violence organizations throughout the world to continue and expand their core work on the ground, while drawing public attention to the larger fight to stop worldwide violence (including rape, battery, incest, female genital mutilation or FGM, and sexual slavery) against women and girls.

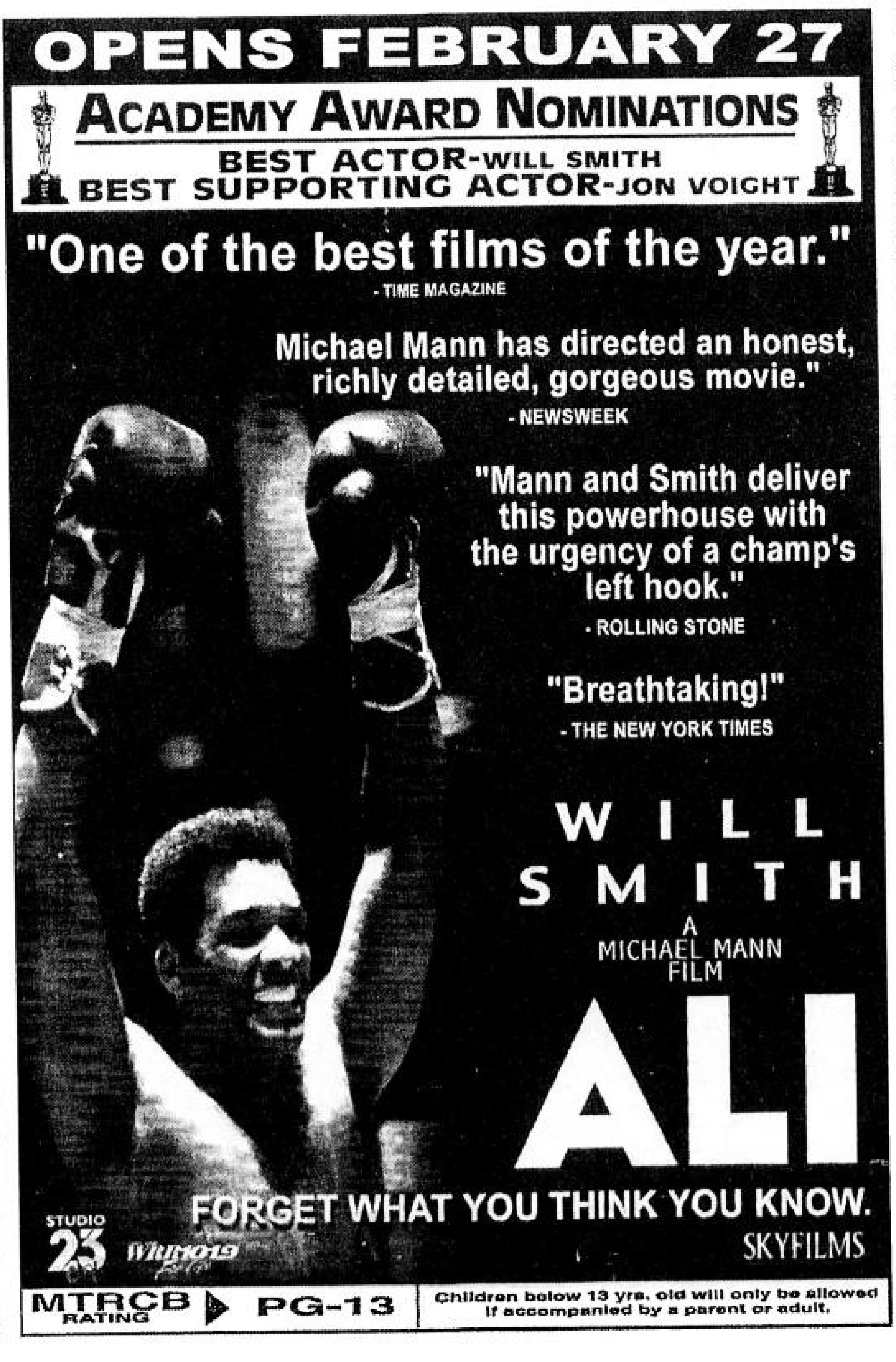
V-Day, organized by the playwright Eve Ensler, is a day on or around Valentine's Day for which annual theatrical and artistic events are produced around the world to transform consciousness, raise money, and revitalize the spirit of existing anti-violence organizations.

Two other V-Day celebrations are planned this year: in Manila (Folk Arts Theater, Feb. 23) and Cebu City (Cebu Plaza Hotel, Feb. 17).

In Cagayan de Oro City, V-Day at the Beach was hosted by Eric Cruz. Reynards Tan was production manager; Jopet Palacio, stage manager; Denise Aguilar, R'Love Rojas, Lui Jatalan, Dyquer Pastrano, Sheryl Goodman, and Mark Bautista, event organizers; Giselle Tribaco, overall coordinator; Lorraine Nicolas-Neri, business manager.

V-Day Cagayan de Oro was made possible by generous arts grants from Lauremar Beach Hotel, House of Lachica, Bigby's Café, Department of Trade and Industry, and New Voice Company.

MTRCB RATING ▶ GP GENERAL PATRONAGE
ALL AGES ADMITTED
RATED A SA PUSO NG BAYAN!
RICHARD GOMEZ and REGINE VELASQUEZ
"The perfect movie for valentine's." -Mayor Lito Atienza Manila
"An enjoyable touching experience." -Billy Balbastro Abante
"The perfect date movie..." -Butch Francisco Philippine Star
"Kilig lahat ..." -Nora Calderon Remate
A film by Yam Laranas
Ikaw Lamang Hanggang Ngayon
Starring CANDY PANGILINAN TANYA GARCIA
directed by YAM LARANAS
VIVA FILMS
NOW SHOWING IN THEATERS EVERYWHERE!
CATCH PBA LIVE! TUE, THU, SAT, SUN ON VIVA TV, IBC 13



OPENS FEBRUARY 27
ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS
BEST ACTOR-WILL SMITH
BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR-JON VOIGHT
"One of the best films of the year." - TIME MAGAZINE
Michael Mann has directed an honest, richly detailed, gorgeous movie." - NEWSWEEK
"Mann and Smith deliver this powerhouse with the urgency of a champ's left hook." - ROLLING STONE
"Breathtaking!" - THE NEW YORK TIMES
WILL SMITH
A MICHAEL MANN FILM
ALI
FORGET WHAT YOU THINK YOU KNOW.
SKYFILMS
STUDIO 23
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

Bikini Summit in Boracay

IT'S TIME for the year's most awaited summer event, the "Mossimo Bikini Summit (The Boracay Bikini Championship)" at the Pearl of the Pacific.

Presented by Mossimo and Pearl of the Pacific, with Air Philippines, the "Mossimo Bikini Summit" is open to male and female of all nationalities, ages 18 to 25, with proportionate body measurements, good looks and vibrant personality.

Minimum height requirement for male is 5'8" while female contestants must be at least 5'4".

Big prizes in cash and in kind await the winners.

The official candidates will be flown, all-expenses paid, to Boracay for the finals night.

The event is a production of Cast and Crew and will be taped as live on April 20 and aired May 10 on ABC 5, 10:30 p.m.

Theme of this year's competition is "Unity in Diversity—the World's Colors in Boracay."

For more details, call Cast and Crew at 718-1032.

Mel Gibson plays soldier in new war-drama film

THE film is based upon the 1992 bestseller, "We Were Soldier Once... and Young," by Lt. Gen. Harold G. Moore, USA (Ret.) and Joseph L. Galloway. It stars Mel Gibson as Lt. Col. Hal Moore, Sam Elliott, Chris Klein, Keri Russell and Madeline Stowe as Mrs. Julie Moore.

Lt. General Harold G. Moore, USA (Ret) made it his mission to be a student of history and this saved his life and the rest of the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment in a dark corner of the world called LZ X-Ray on Nov. 14 to 16, 1965.

"We Were Soldiers" is unlike any Vietnam War film. The viewers are not treated to a brooding racial strife, drug culture or the sanctimonious piety of an anti-war movement.

Award winning director Randall Wallace, who is also the producer and director of the film, stayed within the bounds of what the authors laid out: an epic struggle of young, scared men fighting to live to see another day. It was a struggle that had their fullest attention from the moment their boots hit the tall grass and heat of the Ia Drang Valley, also known as Death Valley.

Mel Gibson delivers a steady and reserved portrayal of Lt. Col. Moore. What he brought across to the viewer wasn't so much a "role" but the genuine character of Hal Moore. Any actor can put on a show, but Gibson captured the intangibles of the character very well.

Sam Elliott's laconic portrait of Sgt. Maj. Plumely is masterful.

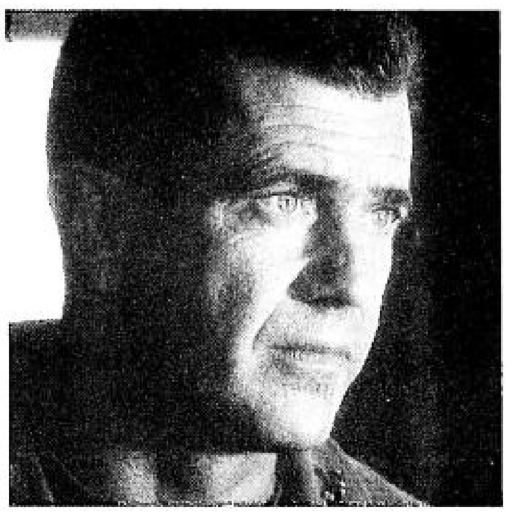
"We Were Soldiers" works on several other levels. Wallace has touched on many of the things that were wrong with that conflict and how the war was ultimately managed.

"We Were Soldiers" is also brutally unrelenting in its portrayal of combat. The fight in the Ia Drang was up close and personal. Several times units had to go hand-to-hand with their enemies in a dance of fists, bayonets and bludgeoning rifle blows.

It's not a film for the faint of heart.

For those unfamiliar with General Moore and Joe Galloway's book, the film is only half the story.

Wallace went out of his way while writing the screenplay and producing the story to capture the horror of war and the honor of the men fighting it.



GIBSON. Delivers a reserved portrayal of Lt. Col. Moore in "We Were Soldiers."

Comedy. . .

From page A30

Contestant: Cancer.
(No, *paninigarilyo.*)

* * *

Finally, let's end with a variation on the error at the start of this piece:

Quizmaster: *Ano'ng hayop si* Garfield?
Contestant: *Aso!*
(*Hindi, pusa!*)

Honorary Oscar for Sidney Poitier

THE BOARD of Governors of the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences will award an Honorary Oscar to **Sidney Poitier** at the 74th Academy Awards presentation on March 24.

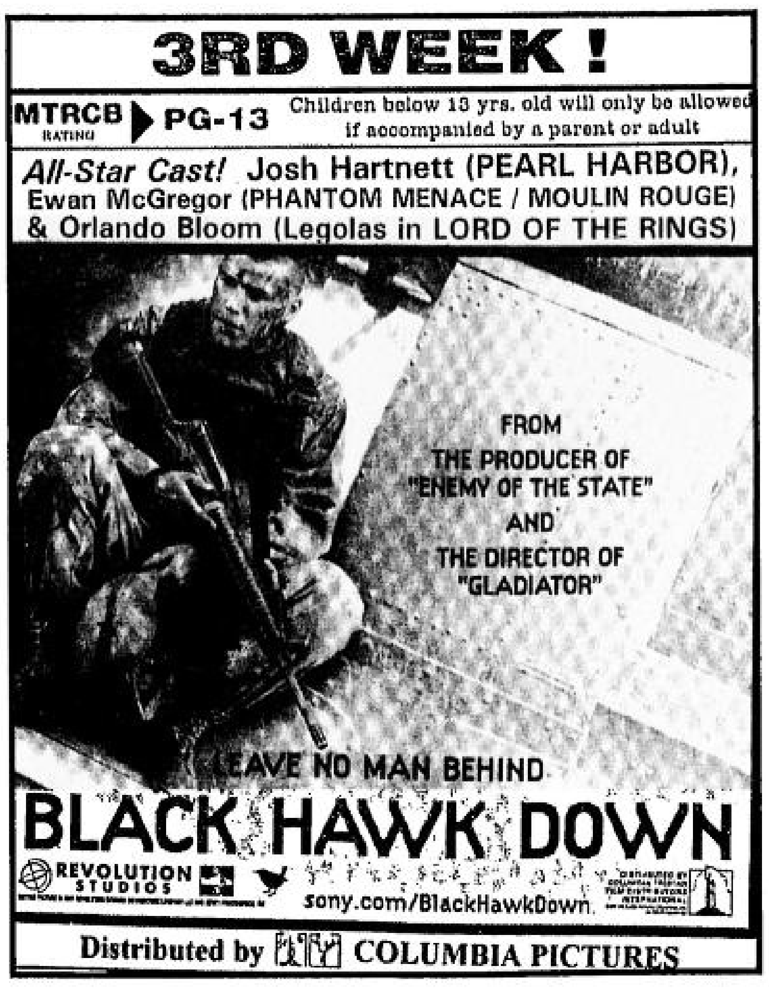
The show will be televised in the Philippines on the Star Movies channel on Wednesday, March 27 at 9 p.m.

The Oscar statuette is being given to Poitier "for his extraordinary performances and unique presence on the screen, and for representing the motion picture industry with dignity, style and intelligence throughout the world."

In a career that has spanned more than 50 years, Poitier has been nominated for two lead-actor Oscars—in 1958 for his performance in "The Defiant Ones," and in 1963 for "Lilies of the Field," for which he won the statuette.

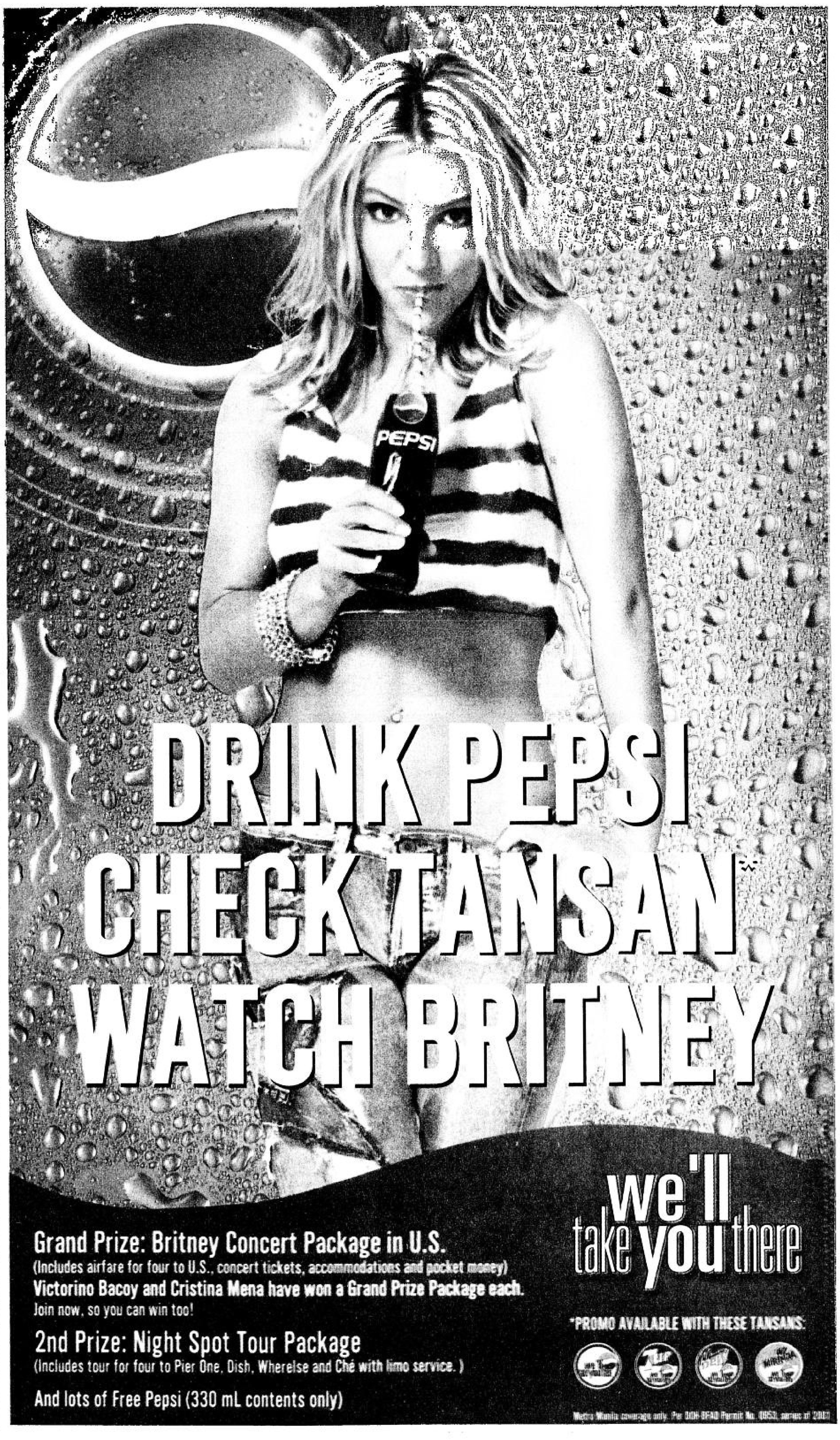
He has appeared in over 40 films since 1949, including "Blackboard Jungle," "To Sir, with Love," "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner," "A Raisin in the Sun" and "In the Heat of the Night."

Past recipients of Honorary Oscars include **Paul Newman**, **Satyajit Ray**, **Michelangelo Antonioni**, **Akira Kurosawa**, **Sophia Loren**, **James Stewart** and **Henry Fonda**.

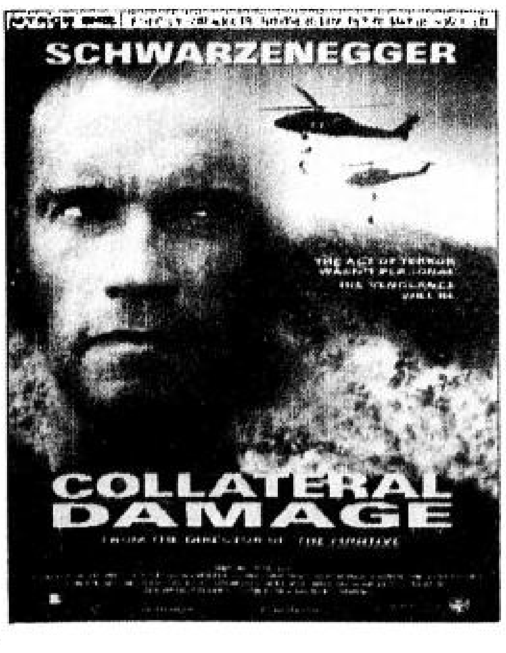


3RD WEEK !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
All-Star Cast! Josh Hartnett (PEARL HARBOR), Ewan McGregor (PHANTOM MENACE / MOULIN ROUGE) & Orlando Bloom (Legolas in LORD OF THE RINGS)
FROM THE PRODUCER OF "ENEMY OF THE STATE" AND THE DIRECTOR OF "GLADIATOR"
LEAVE NO MAN BEHIND
BLACK HAWK DOWN
REVOLUTION STUDIOS
sony.com/BlackHawkDown
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

Special Valentine Presentation
5TH HEARTWARMING DAY !
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
"'RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS' HAS GOT THE GOODS. DIRECTED SUPERBLY BY PENNY MARSHALL. THE FILM ACCELERATES DREW BARRYMORE'S CAREER, AND PUTS STEVE ZAHN'S INTO OVERDRIVE." GENE SHALIT, THE TODAY SHOW
"WONDERFULLY ACTED, ESPECIALLY BY DREW BARRYMORE." RICHARD SCHICKEL, TIME MAGAZINE
"MS. BARRYMORE'S TOUGH-BUT-TENDER PERFORMANCE IS THE CLEAREST PROOF YET THAT SHE HAS WHAT IT TAKES TO STRETCH HER TALENTS INTO LARGE, COMPLEX PORTRAYALS." STEPHEN HOLDEN, THE NEW YORK TIMES
DREW BARRYMORE
RIDING IN CARS WITH BOYS
ridingincars.com
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES



DRINK PEPSI
CHECK TANSAN*
WATCH BRITNEY
Grand Prize: Britney Concert Package in U.S.
(Includes airfare for four to U.S., concert tickets, accommodations and pocket money)
Victorino Bacoy and Cristina Mena have won a Grand Prize Package each.
Join now, so you can win too!
2nd Prize: Night Spot Tour Package
(Includes tour for four to Pier One, Dish, Wherelse and Ché with limo service.)
And lots of Free Pepsi (330 mL contents only)
we'll take you there
*PROMO AVAILABLE WITH THESE TANSANS:
Metro Manila coverage only. Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0853, series of 2001



SCHWARZENEGGER
COLLATERAL DAMAGE

Claudine learns her lessons after first love at 16

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ACTRESS **Claudine Barretto**, 23, wants to spend the rest of her life with **Rico Yan**.

"Rico is always there to take care of me," Claudine, who has been Rico's girlfriend for four years now, says with obvious certainty. "Where can you find a man who will always be by your side even when you're confined in the hospital?"

Claudine first fell in love at 16 and she has learned a lot from her previous relationships.

"I learned not to sacrifice too much for love and not to be impulsive," she grants. "I guess as you get older, you also mature in your relationships."

It helps that Rico is four years older than she. "He's not as stubborn as other guys my age," she says.

Although Rico also has his mood swings, according to Claudine, he certainly knows how to make her feel special.

"Of course, we also have our petty fights, but when they happen, I just keep quiet," Claudine says. "Rico is very transparent. You'll know when he's mad or not in the mood.

"He hardly breaks his promises and even when he does, he makes up for it without fail."

She is careful not to let rumors affect their relationship. "When I hear something, I confront him but I'm very careful not to get jealous," she says.

ALWAYS by her side, Claudine she says, is boyfriend Rico Yan.

Claudine and Rico are in the TV soap "Sa Dulo ng Walang Hanggan." Three years after making a movie together, the real-life sweethearts are back in a light romance, "Got To Believe in Magic," directed by **Olive Lamasan**.

Claudine and Rico earlier worked together in "Mula sa Puso," "Radio Romance," "Madrasta," "Flames" and "Dahil Mahal na Mahal Kita."

"Got To Believe in Magic" is the first light romance-comedy project for Lamasan, who directed such dramas as "Madrasta" and "Minsan Minahal Kita."

Manila movie

MANILA Mayor **Lito Atienza** was obviously very pleased after watching the Wednesday night premiere of the **Richard Gomez-Regine Velasquez** movie, "Ikaw Lang Hanggang Ngayon," which was shot entirely in Manila.

The film used a number of Manila landmarks including Intramuros, City Hall, the Post Office, Liwasang Bonifacio, Plaza Miranda, Manila Hotel, even Quiapo and the Pasig River.

Even the characters played by Regine and Richard are Manila residents—she from Sampaloc and he from Singalong.

"I believe the best way to promote a city is through a movie," Atienza said. "Cities like Hong Kong, San Francisco, Rome and New York have been used as backdrops of memorable movies."

He noted that the opening frame of "Ikaw Lang Hanggang Ngayon" is a situationer for Manila as it says, "Maynila *sa panahon ngayon*."

Atienza admits he only gets to watch local movies during the yearly Manila Film Festival which the city organizes.

"But this one I purposely watched because everything is set in Manila," he said. "Even the Quiapo market looks good and the night scenes in Liwasang Bonifacio have very good lighting. Every shot of Manila is a postcard shot. Obviously, the director and scriptwriter are also in love with the city. I wish we have more movies like this."

The bench where Richard and Regine meet in the movie was donated to the City of Manila.

"It is now in Liwasang Bonifacio," Atienza said. "I'm sure that after this movie, Liwasang Bonifacio will become one of the favorite hangouts of lovers. Hopefully, the viewers will also get excited about Manila."

Villar's bill

IT IS ironic that a legislator who is not from show biz, Senate president pro tempore **Manny Villar**, has proposed the abolition of the 30 percent amusement tax imposed on the local entertainment industry.

While we have show biz figures in the Senate like **Tito Sotto, Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda** and **Ramon Revilla**, it was Villar who thought that the amusement tax should be removed outright.

Hopefully, when the bill becomes a law, more producers will be enticed to come up with quality films.

Villar also proposes more incentives to cut production costs of film and record producers.

"Why will you tax an industry that is already dying?" Villar asks. "The 30 percent tax was imposed when movies were still making huge profits. But now that local movies are struggling at the box office, especially against Hollywood films, we need to remove the amusement tax."

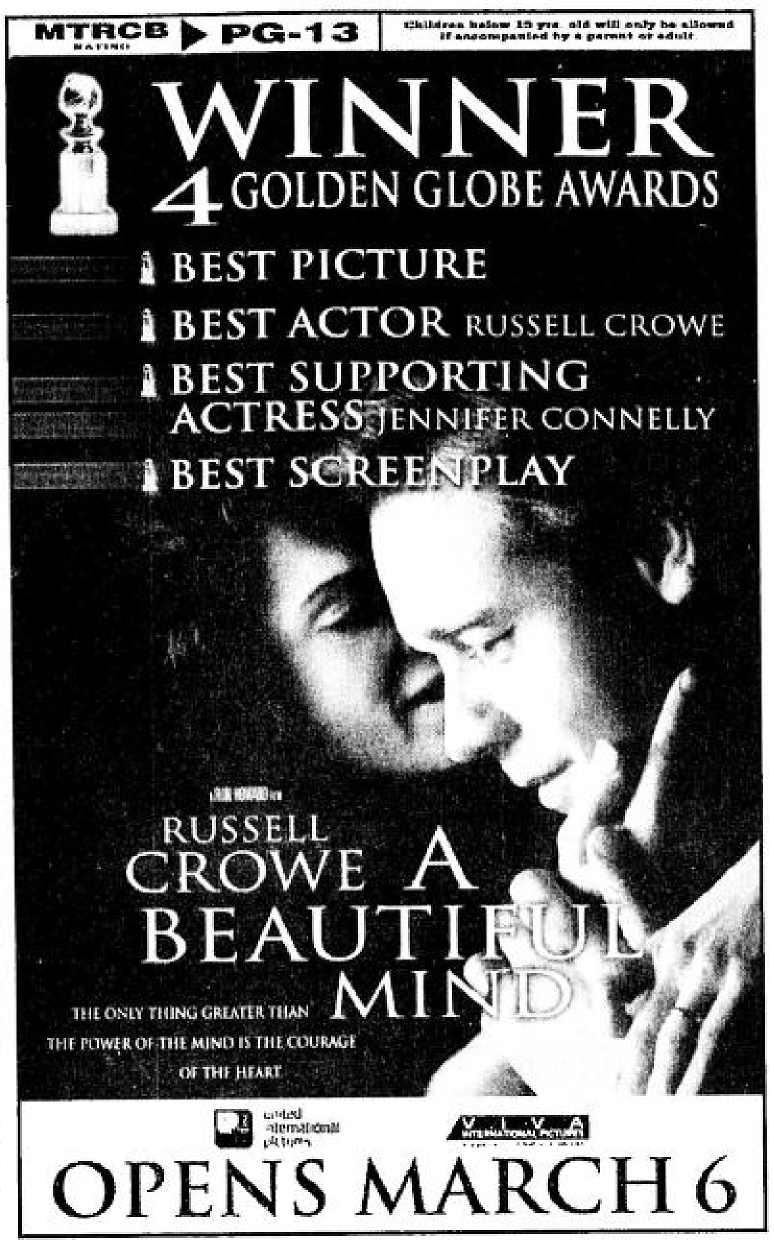
He notes that the entertainment industry is the industry that suffers the highest tax deduction.

"If we want to uplift local movies, we should help producers come up with more quality films," he says. "We should give more incentives that can bring down the cost of making films and records.

"In a way, the tax has even become a source of graft and corruption, so we must abolish the 30 percent amusement tax."

He hopes the bill, when turned into law, will also bring down the prices of VCDs and albums, lower moviehouse admission fees and help reduce piracy.

"This is not meant to eradicate piracy, but the bottom line is to make products more affordable to the people," Villar says. "If this happens, there will be no need to resort to pirated VCDs and CDs."



MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
WINNER 4 GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS
BEST PICTURE
BEST ACTOR RUSSELL CROWE
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS JENNIFER CONNELLY
BEST SCREENPLAY
RUSSELL CROWE A BEAUTIFUL MIND
THE ONLY THING GREATER THAN THE POWER OF THE MIND IS THE COURAGE OF THE HEART
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VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
OPENS MARCH 6

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS - P 13 10:40, 1:20, 4:00, 6:40, 9:30
KATE & LEOPOLD - GP 11:50, 2:20, 4:50, 7:20, 9:50
COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 11:50, 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10
IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON - GP 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
VANILLA SKY - R 18 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30
COLLATERAL DAMAGE - R 18 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri., 11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

AYALA MALLS ENTERTAINMENT
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING
All Digital Sound
GLORIETTA 1 formerly QUAD
1 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 VANILLA SKY in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 KATE &LEOPOLD in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
GLORIETTA 4
1 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 COLLATERAL DAMAGE THX in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 VANILLA SKY in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 KATE &LEOPOLD in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film
GREENBELT
1 HAPPY TOGETHER (Exclusive Screenings) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 THE GOLDEN BOWL (Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4 PROMISES PROMISES FEB. 14, 15, 16 - 9 PM Onstage
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE THX in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 COLLATERAL DAMAGE in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 RIDING IN CARS W/ BOYS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 KATE &LEOPOLD in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 IKAW LAMANG HANGGANG NGAYON in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
The Ayala malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI
CALENDAR AD For this week:
Live at the Activity Center:
Feb. 16, 2002—Moonlight Serenade at the Lagoon
Post Valentines Dinner Show with Nonoy Zuñiga and Janet Basco
Feb. 16, 2002—Spell-a-Prize Raffle Draw
Feb. 17, 2002—Jericho Rosales and Cristine Hermosa, Live at the Activity Center 7:30 PM to 8:30 PM
Feb. 24, 2002—Little Love Acts (Card Decorating Contest and Card Making Contest for Mom and child and Dad and child)
ALABANG
ALABANG TOWN CENTER EVENTS
Feb. 13 & 14
NOTE-A-ROSE
Customers get one (1) ROSE upon presentation of P150 receipt/s (single or accumulated) with a Coke product purchase from any of the FOOD CHOICES AT THE TOWN establishments.
CHINESE DRAGON-LION DANCE
2:00 PM, MALLWIDE
Feb. 16 & 17
VALENTINES TOWN FAIR
We give you exciting activities with FOOD, GAMES, HENNA TATTOO, FACE PAINTING and SCHOOL BOOTHS as well as a LOVE SONG REQUEST or GREET A FRIEND at RX 93.1 and Clowns at the Town Plaza
MY KIDDIE VALENTINE SHOW
Feb. 16, 11:00 am - Town Plaza & Feb. 17, 4:00 pm Cinema Lobby
PIDO with TAKE ONE Band Show
Feb. 16, 7:00 pm - Town Plaza
ANONYMOUS FASHION SHOW
Feb. 17, 4:00 pm - Town Plaza
For inquiries, please call Customer Service at 842-2782
CEBU
CALENDAR AD
For the period of Feb. 1 to 3, 2002
Valentine Card Making & Cookie Decorating Contest
Feb. 3, 10 & 24, 2002
(3:30 PM, Activity Center)
USC Festival of the Arts
Feb. 1, 2002
(4:00 PM, Activity Center)
Fashion Show w/ Latin Band
Feb. 1, 2002
(6:30 PM, Lagoon Area)
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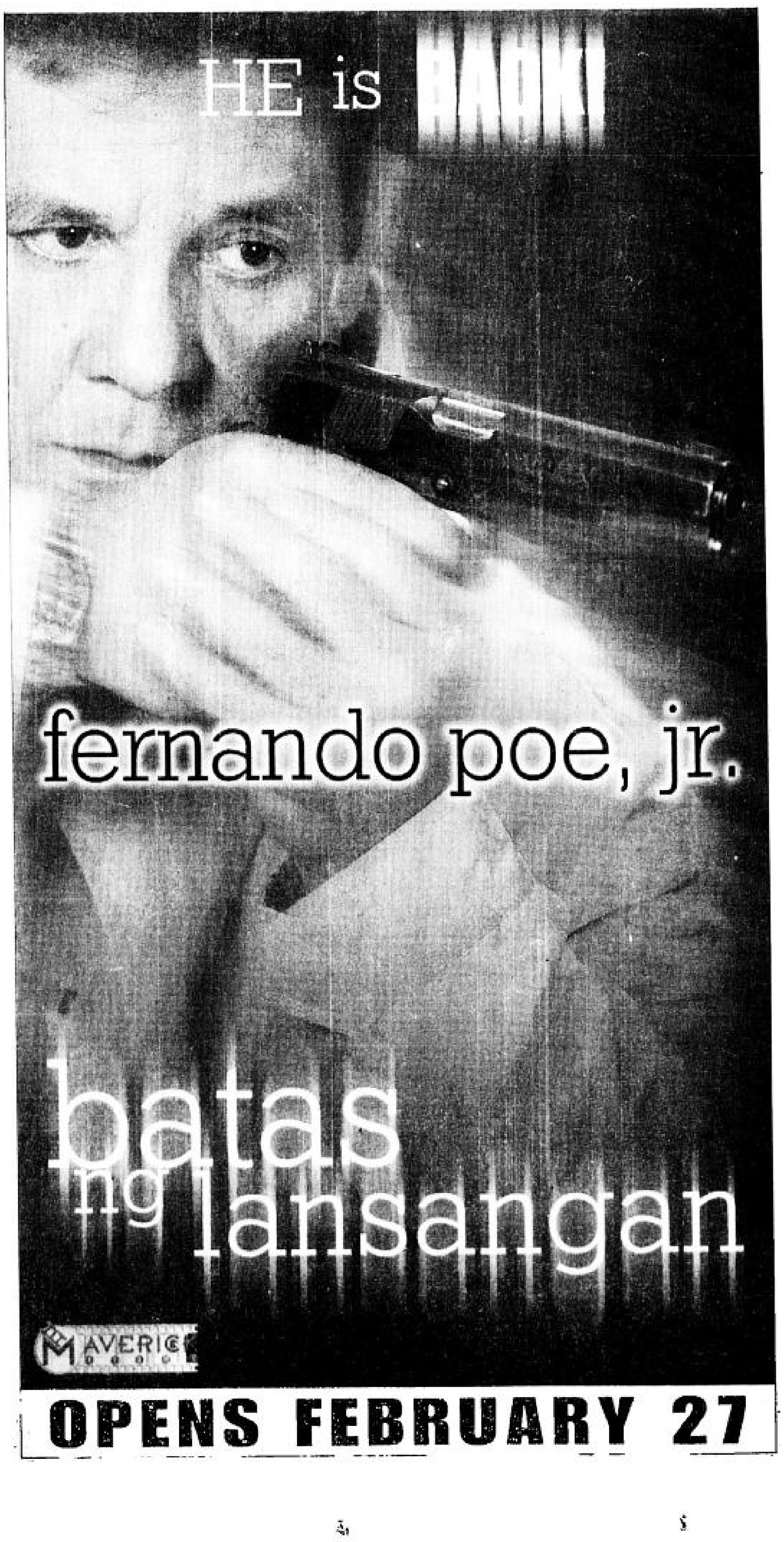
MILLION DOLLAR MANSION
PRESENTS A LARGO ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION "MILLION DOLLAR MANSION" JOE PESCI VINCENT GARDENIA MAROLYN SMITH OSBORNE STACY TRAVIS RUBEN BLADES
RELAX & SEE A MOVIE



HE is BACK!
fernando poe, jr.
batas ng lansangan
MAVERICK
OPENS FEBRUARY 27

Bardem movie caps annual filmfest

JULIAN Schnabel's hypnotic depiction of gay Cuba in "Before Night Falls" is the closing film of "Pelikula at Lipunan 2002 on Feb. 19.

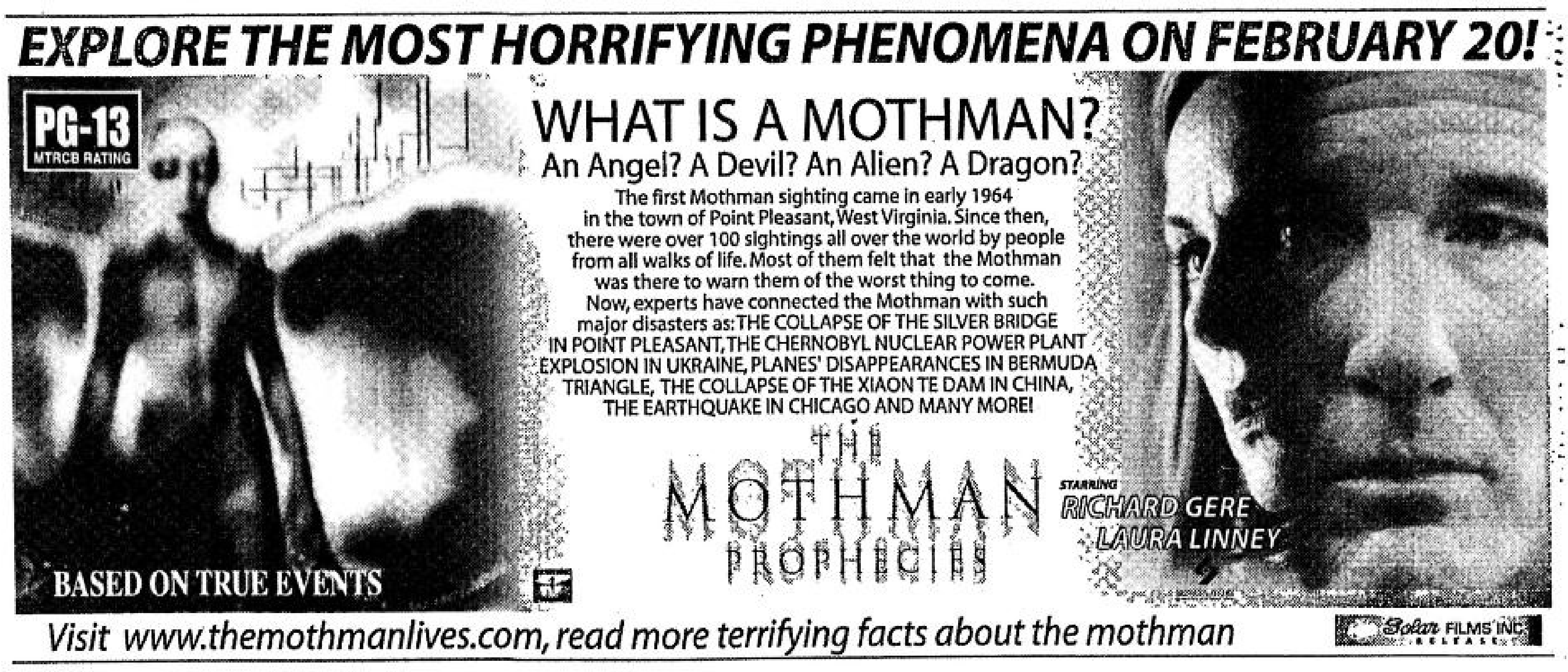
The film is the true tale of poet Reinaldo Arenas (played by Javier Bardem) who was framed, imprisoned and pursued for both his poetry and homosexuality.

His artistic appetites unsuitable for country life, he joins the Revolution and heads for Havana.

The combination of his writing, lifestyle and friend's betrayal eventually lands him in a prison filled with real criminals. Among them is Johnny Depp as the flowery transvestite Bon Bon, who smuggles his writing from prison and also plays the dual cameo of a hypocritical military lieutenant.

"Pelikula at Lipunan" is the annual film festival by the National Commission on Culture and the Arts and the Mowelfund Film Institute.

Call Mowelfund at 727-1915 to 16.


EXPLORE THE MOST HORRIFYING PHENOMENA ON FEBRUARY 20!

PG-13 MTRCB RATING

WHAT IS A MOTHMAN?
An Angel? A Devil? An Alien? A Dragon?

The first Mothman sighting came in early 1964 in the town of Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Since then, there were over 100 sightings all over the world by people from all walks of life. Most of them felt that the Mothman was there to warn them of the worst thing to come. Now, experts have connected the Mothman with such major disasters as: THE COLLAPSE OF THE SILVER BRIDGE IN POINT PLEASANT, THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR POWER PLANT EXPLOSION IN UKRAINE, PLANES' DISAPPEARANCES IN BERMUDA TRIANGLE, THE COLLAPSE OF THE XIAON TE DAM IN CHINA, THE EARTHQUAKE IN CHICAGO AND MANY MORE!

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SHOWING TODAY AT PELIKULA AT LIPUNAN 2002

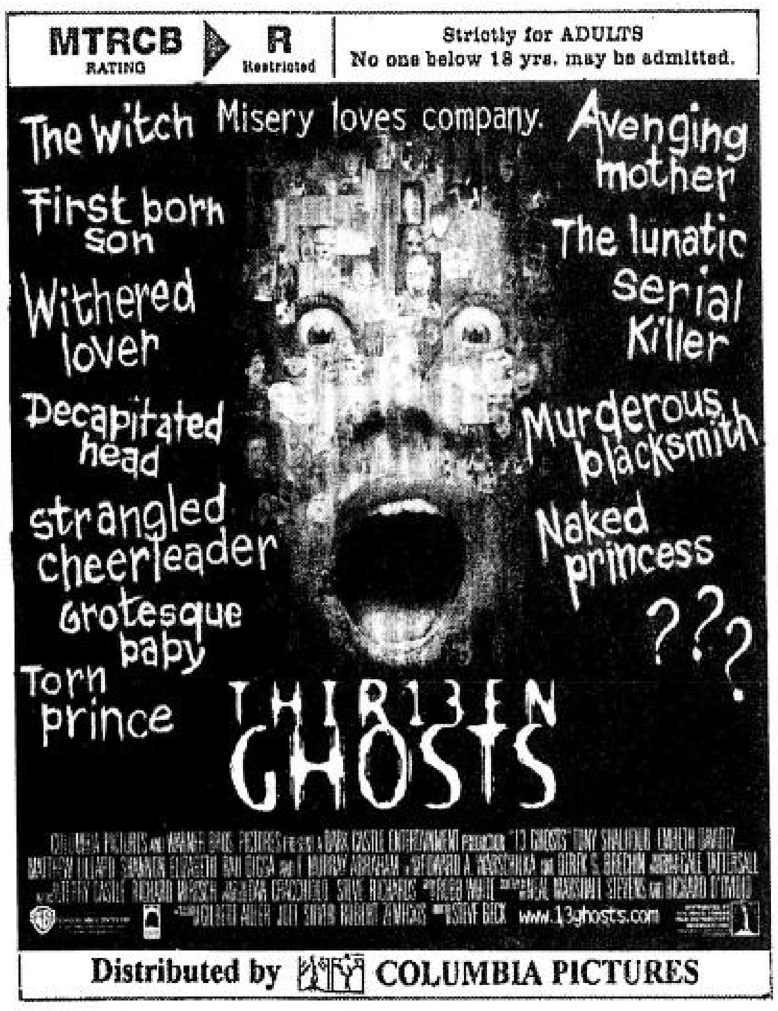
February 17	
11am	Animation Program
1:30pm	Animation Shorts
4pm	Tribute to Nida Blanca 3 Films of Ms. Nida Eddie Garcia's Magdusa Ka
6:30pm	Ading Fernando's John and Marsha
9pm	F.H. Constantino's WARAY-WARAY see a very rare classic!

Tonight the festival is honoring a truly great actress and a generational icon. MS NIDA BLANCA with three films that exemplify her distinct charm and talent.
With a culminating program to be attended by LVN stars!

F.H. Constantino's
WARAY-WARAY
Tonight only at 9PM!

NCCA SKYFILMS

for inquiries pls call 723 4058


MTRCB RATING R Restricted
Strictly for ADULTS
No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

Misery loves company.

THIR13EN GHOSTS

www.13ghosts.com

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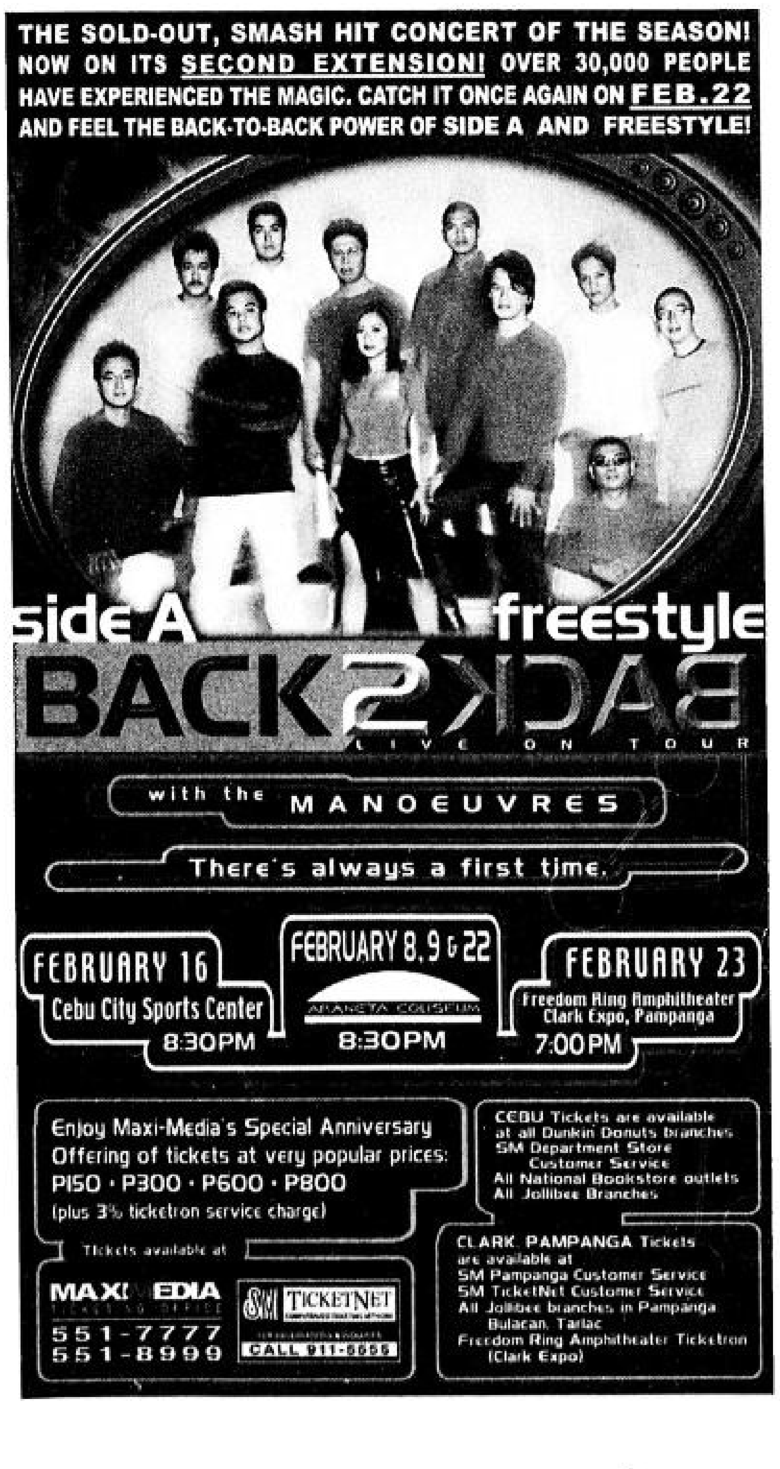
THE SOLD-OUT, SMASH HIT CONCERT OF THE SEASON! NOW ON ITS SECOND EXTENSION! OVER 30,000 PEOPLE HAVE EXPERIENCED THE MAGIC. CATCH IT ONCE AGAIN ON FEB.22 AND FEEL THE BACK-TO-BACK POWER OF SIDE A AND FREESTYLE!

side A freestyle
BACK2BACK
LIVE ON TOUR

with the MANOEUVRES

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FEBRUARY 16
Cebu City Sports Center
8:30PM

FEBRUARY 8, 9 & 22
ARANETA COLISEUM
8:30PM

FEBRUARY 23
Freedom Ring Amphitheater
Clark Expo, Pampanga
7:00PM

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All Jollibee branches in Pampanga
Bulacan, Tarlac
Freedom Ring Amphitheater Ticketron
(Clark Expo)

Dati hanggang karaoke lang... Ngayon eto'ng Bird's Eye, Mindanao Grand Finals winner na!

Dati nagli-lipsynch lang sila... Pero ngayon ang Third Degree, Luzon Grand Finals winner na!

Dati naga-caroling lang sila... Ngayon, ang Burning Culture, Visayas Grand Finals winner na!

Congrats!
'Yan ang nagagawa ng tunay na lakas!

Inilabas ninyo ang inyong tunay na lakas sa tugtugan, at ngayon kayo'y ganap na banda na. Pinatunayan ninyo na ang amateur band kayang magtunog pro! Nagpapasalamat ang Red Horse Beer sa higit na 340 bands na sumali at lalo na sa tatlong bandang nanalo! Salamat at naging kasama ninyo ang Red Horse sa inyong pagsikat. Magpainom naman kayo o !

Practice na! Red Horse Muziklaban 2002 is coming!

MUZIKLABAN

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

On WEDNESDAY, hang on to your funnybone
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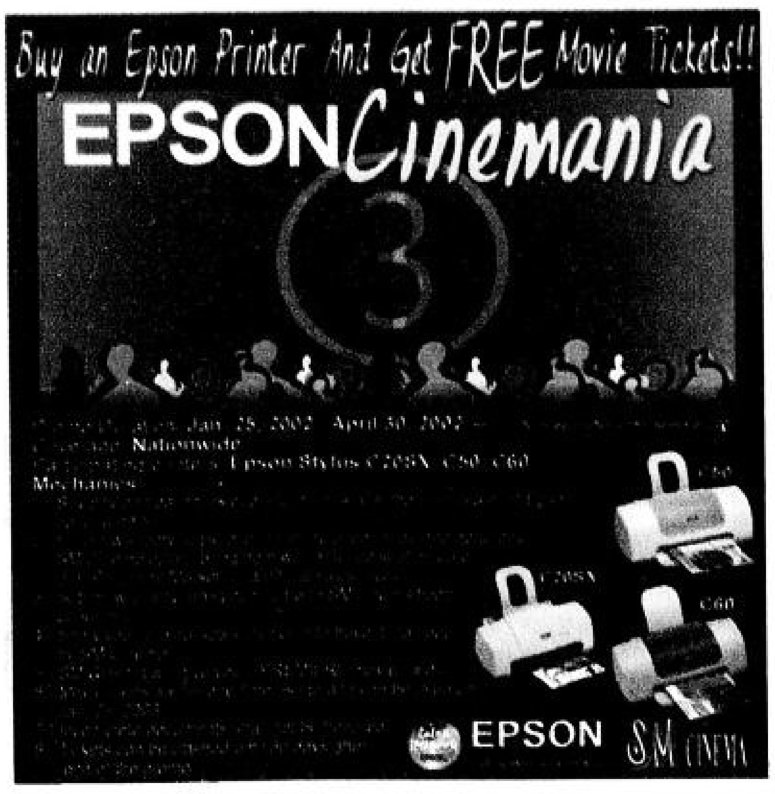
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SM CINEMA

MRS. Pilar Velasquez (center), widow of the "Kenkoy" creator, poses in front of the Kenkoy statue, flanked by Manila city secretary Emmanuel Sison (left) and Komiks managing director Marcelo Alonzo.

Kenkoy comes alive again

KENKOY, the Filipino comic book character created by the late Tony Velasquez that has become a generic word for "funny" in Filipino, is alive again in a placed aptly called Komiks.

Last Feb. 11, in a ceremony accompanied by much music and merrymaking, Komiks unveiled a life-size statue of Kenkoy at the courtyard in front of the boutique restaurant on Ma. Orosa Street in Malate.

A beaming Mrs. Pilar Velasquez, widow of the Kenkoy creator, received a citation for her husband from Komiks managing director Marcelo Alonzo for pioneering "komiks" in the country.

Alonzo through his restaurant is paying homage to Velasquez and other creators of memorable Philippine comic book characters. He says Kenkoy is the "official mascot" of the boutique restaurant.

Manila city secretary, lawyer Emmanuel Sison, and Department of Tourism director Renato Chua also attended by unveiling. The affair was highlighted by fireworks, a dragon and a lion dance, a female impersonator act and a performance of classic Filipino love songs by the CCP Philharmonic Quartet.

Comedy of quiz-show errors

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THANKS to all the readers who have reacted positively to our new "comedy of (quiz show) errors" series. Today, we have a special treat for you: a particularly funny collection of erroneous answers that we've collated from the likes of friends and colleagues **Digna Santiago**, **Monique Villonco** and **Alex Cortez**—and our mom!:

Quizmaster: The song "Memories" was popularized in what Broadway musical? Give me the title of the musical.

Contestant: "Dogs!"

(Woof!)

* * *

Quizmaster: Complete this famous Latin statement: 'Veni, Vidi, ____"?

Contest ant: Saturno!

(What does Saturno have to do with this?—Oh, we get it: Veni Saturno!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ilan ang* horsemen *sa* Apocalypse?

Contestant: 144!

(No wonder the world is in such terrible trouble!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What do the three stars on the Philippine flag stand for?

Contestant: They stand for the three continents of the Philippines!

(Duh!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano'ng S ang linalagay sa likod ng kabayo para sakyan*?

Contestant: Silya!

(Neigh! Saddle!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang* "ginoo" *sa* Spanish?

Contestant: Mister!

(No, Señor!)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano'ng* basic social unit *ang makikita sa isang* family portrait?

Contestant: Portrait!

(No, family!)

* * *

Quizmaster: What is the highest court in the land?

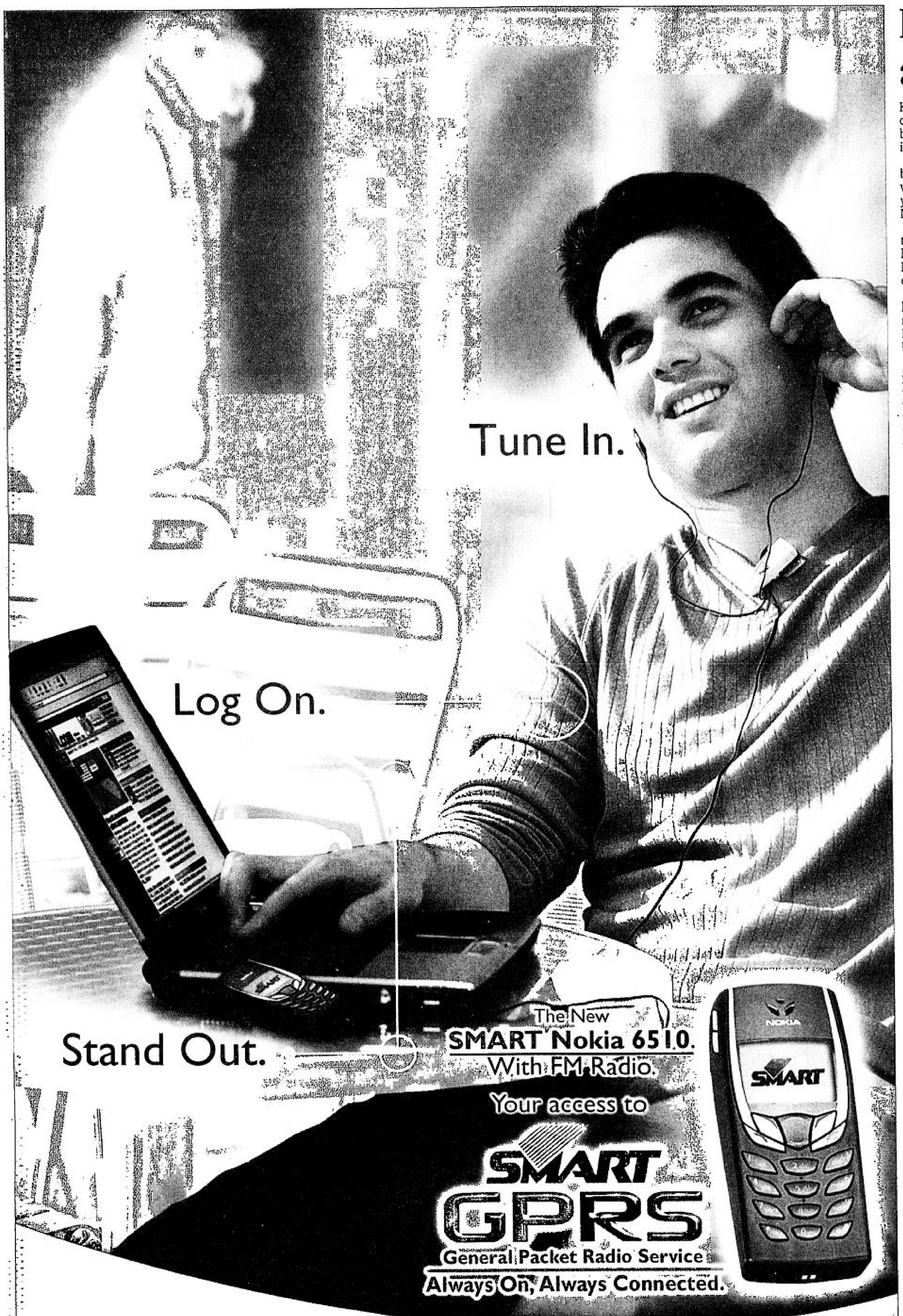
Contestant: Court of Appeals.

(No, Supreme Court.)

* * *

Quizmaster: *Ano ang bisyo na sanhi ng* smoker's cough?

COMEDY/A27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SundayB
Editor Raul O. Marcelo ● Business Features Editor argie Quimpo-Espino

Rizal son soared from street vendor to PAL president

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

LONG before Metro Manila became a booming industrial and commercial metropolis, there was bustling Taytay, Rizal.

Taytay used to be a very prosperous town populated with entrepreneurs. It was renowned for its sash factories and garments operations that dotted almost every street corner.

It was this same entrepreneurial spirit that prompted Philippine Airlines president Avelino L. Zapanta to first earn a living selling everything from cold drinks, cigarettes to magazines such as Liwayway and Bulaklak to people going for their pilgrimage to Antipolo when he was in elementary school.

FIRST JOB

Zapanta tells SundayBiz that he and his friends sold cold drinks to people going to Antipolo just to earn enough money to buy toys.

It was a different story in high school when he collected *kusot* or wood shavings from the sash factories and sold them for 25 centavos a sack to the panaderias that used the wood shavings for fuel.

"I needed the money for my activities in school. I had a lot of extra curricular work because I was a student leader and the editor in chief of our school paper," Zapanta says.

He could not rely on his parents to provide him with everything he needed since his father, a master carpenter, and his mother, a seamstress, barely had enough to feed a family of six.

Any extras the children needed, they had to raise themselves.

"I learned very early on that you really have to struggle to get what you need and there is no substitute for hard work," Zapanta says.

Zapanta's first formal job came in 1961 when he came back from Buffalo, New York. He went there to spend a year at the Maryvale Senior High School, Cheektowaga, Buffalo, New York as an American Field Service International Scholarship exchange student.

"When I came back it was too late to go to school here so I volunteered for the AFS office here. I did small jobs in the beginning but I guess they liked the way I worked so they asked me to stay," he says.

Zapanta ended up staying for three years from 1961-1964 as an assistant overseas representative at the AFS, responsible for recruiting Filipino exchange students to the United States and Filipino families and schools to host American students.

He got about P130 a month at the time, which was equivalent to the salary of an ordinary teacher at the time. He adds that it was

RIZAL/B3

AVELINO Zapanta, the flag carrier's president and CEO.

THE PAL CEO (fifth from right) as a station agent in Mactan, Cebu, in 1968.

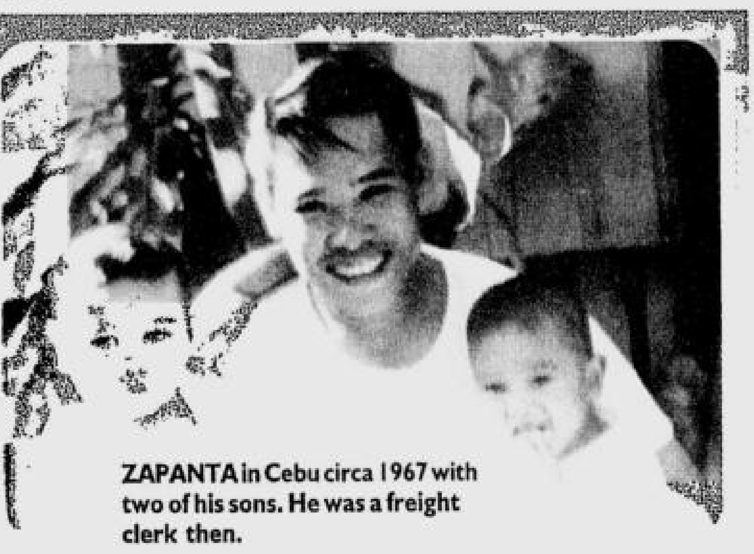
FLASHBACK

The early '60s were the years of rock and roll. Men copied the hairstyle of either Elvis Presley or the Beatles. They wore Banlon shirts and flare jeans.

A double movie feature cost 25 centavos in Taytay, minimum fare was 10 centavos, a bottle of Coca-Cola cost 15 centavos and a slice of biko was 5 centavos.

The local music scene was dominated by artists such as Ruben Tagalog and Ric Manrique.

The exchange rate was about P4 to a US dollar and the salary of a professional ranged between P120 and P130 a month.



ZAPANTA in Cebu circa 1967 with two of his sons. He was a freight clerk then.

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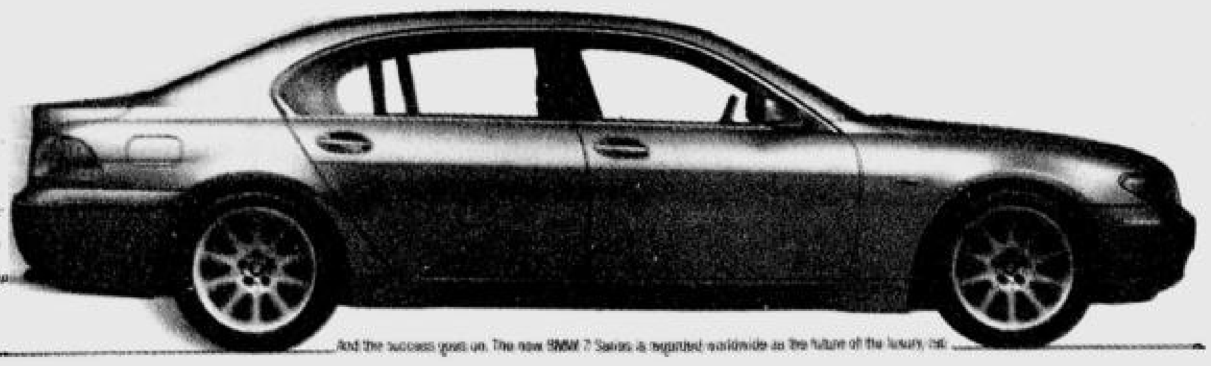

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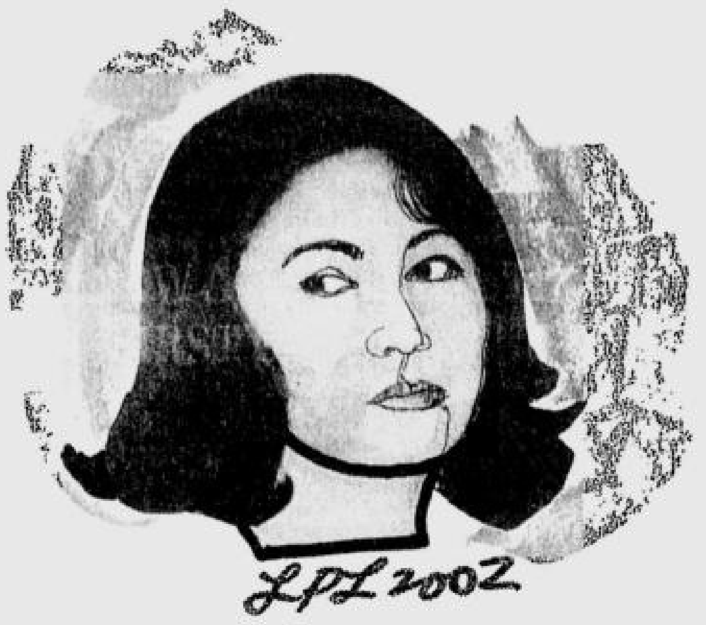
IN YOUR FACE BY L.P. LEVISTE



THE CONTROVERSIAL Peace bonds are not giving Marissa Camacho-Reyes any peace these days.
Pummeled by criticisms from all sides, she is hard-pressed to prove that the deal was above board and that his brother, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, had nothing to do with it.

CEO to speak in World Congress

SMART Communications Inc. (SMART) president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno will be a keynote speaker at this year's 3GSM World Congress in Cannes, France.

The only presentor from the Philippines, Nazareno will speak on "The Operator's Role in Driving Content and Applications Innovation." He will make his presentation at the plenary session of the second day of the four-day annual congress that starts Feb. 19.

Nazareno will discuss the strategies that mobile phone operators can adopt to develop a rich portfolio of wireless services. He will also tackle various issues regarding how operators can utilize the emerging 2.5G and 3G technology platforms.

THE YATS Wine Club cigar collection includes Cohibas, Montecristos and Romeo y Julietas.

THE CARD room where executives and wine club members can play games like baccarat and poker.

WINE Club executive chef Chris Locher with some of the wines in the club's cellar.

PHOTOS BY JIM PUNZALAN

Execs' hideaway rises in Clark

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MOVERS and shakers in the business world are almost always confined to the boardrooms and meeting rooms in Metro Manila.

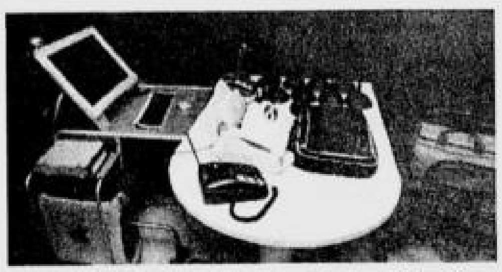
The problem is that their meetings end up becoming not too private because they get noticed when they go to hotels or function areas. Somebody else will be tipped off.

An alternative is to go out of town for those power meetings. But where? An alternative is the Yats International Wine Club within the Clark Special Economic Zone—a new watering hole for those who are willing to pay the price for good food, wine and a private meeting place.

The main come-on is the cuisine, the extensive wine and cigar collection and the boardroom have made the Yats Wine Club owned by the Yats International Ltd. of Hong Kong a watering hole for business personalities leading the companies headquartered at the former military air base.

Many may find the prices a little stiff, with an average dinner easily costing about P1,500, but Yats Club executive chef Chris Locher says the Wine Club caters to those who are willing to pay the price for quality food and quality wine.

THE WINE Club has little corners where small groups can listen to their own music.



THE BOARDROOM comes with top-of-the-line equipment such as these.

Locher stresses that the ingredients come from abroad, including the US Angus beef and vegetables from countries such as France.

"So, if you say to yourself that I worked hard and I deserve something to reward myself, then you can come here and you will get something better than what you will get in another place like a hotel," Locher tells the INQUIRER.

The Yats Club has made quite a following among the expatriate crowd, and Locher says many Hong Kong nationals fly in through chartered flights to do business in Clark and then have a meal or two at the Yats Club.

The Club can only seat a maximum of 70 at the time, to ensure little private places for groups to sit down, relax and either smoke a cigar, sip wine or savor good food—or do all three. You can even play a card game to relax at the end of a long day.

The boardroom, on the other hand, is equipped with the latest in audio-visual equipment, executive chairs (some of which give a good massage), and coffee and tea making facilities so that the meeting is closed off even to the staff.

Taipan gives five schoolhouses to Iloilo

WHEN SM began building its malls in the provincial areas, it not only changed the lifestyles of residents in Cebu, Iloilo, Pampanga and Davao, but also became an active member of the community.

In line with this, SM, owned by taipan Henry Sy, recently turned over five new school buildings to the city government. The two-room little blue schoolhouses are located in the premises of Nabitasan Elementary School, N.J. Ingore Elementary School, Ticud Elementary School, Barrio Obrero Elementary School, and A. Montes II Elementary School.

Iloilo City Schools Division Superintendent Dr. Ida .B. Endonila was the one who identified the schools which are now recipient of the new buildings from SM Prime Holdings through SM Foundation. They were chosen because of their need for additional classrooms due to the huge number of students enrolled with them.

The whole student and faculty of the A. Montes II Elementary School warmly greeted SM representatives and city officials during the symbolic turnover and blessing. SM Foundation's Debbie Sy then turned over the buildings to Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Trenas during the simple ceremony.

Also present were Iloilo City Vice Mayor Vic Facultad, Endonila of DECS, and the principals of the five recipient schools—Wilhelmina Gabuan of A. Montes II, Merlinda Alminasa of Nabitasan, Fe Adonacion of Ticud, Gloria Aungon of N.J. Ingore, and Genili Lagamon of Barrio Obrero.

They were all thankful to SM for the schoolhouses. "The rooms are well constructed and a very conducive learning avenue for our pupils," says Lorralyn Faustino. "Hope this project will be benefited by the other schools as it provides a home for education."

"It was really a blessing that SM gave us this building—the room we were using was already dilapidated and dangerous to students," says Gregilda Benal, PTA president of the N.J. Ingore Elementary School.

"SM is known not only to be a successful business, but a big help to the community as well," she adds.

"We appreciate very much SM's donation, which can now accommodate classes without classrooms," Genili Lagamon, principal of the Barrio Obrero Elementary School, enthused. "It is a privilege to be a recipient of a well constructed school building."

Yolanda Balido, a teacher and guidance counselor at the Ticud Elementary School, adds that "the newly constructed school building is a great help to us. It can accommodate more students and add to the improvement of the school campus. Our prayers and wishes for more power to SM."

The five little blue schoolhouses are part of SM's efforts to reach out to the community through its foundation. Other SM Foundation projects include its scholarship program, mall-based outreach projects, medical missions, and religions donations.

EACH schoolhouse has two rooms for learning.

SM's little blue schoolhouse at the NF Ingore Elementary School.

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Husband casts fortune with wife

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

WITH the ever-changing sociopolitical climate in the country, putting up a business seems particularly harder today than it was a few years ago.

Taking a risk even during an economic boom can be costly. So, unless one has a lot of capital to spare or a sure-fire idea, it's better to take your time and wait.

Elgin Santos-Zulueta, who worked for an events management company for five years, knew the difficulties of establishing a business so she hesitated for a while on striking out on her own.

She decided to settle for a job at a multinational company, which provided her with financial security, while putting what was left of her free time into her own production company, Successories Production, which handles management for events, productions, and talents and offers others marketing services.

She didn't anticipate, however, that her husband would notice how unhappy she was with the set-up. He asked her if she wanted to resign and run Successories instead. Elgin was only too happy to say yes, now that she knew that she had her husband's support.

With very little capital to work with, Elgin, 27, and Raffy, 29, turned to the people they knew they could count on: family and friends. Their parents lent the office space and helped them with a loan. They also asked help from friends and made major changes in their lifestyle. Big spending was limited to the needs of their kids.

With Elgin's connections, Successories started bringing in clients but it was the *Tomadoras* that finally gave the break the company needed. After watching the movie Coyote Ugly, Elgin felt the same concept would work here but it needed some fine-tuning to appeal to the Filipino market.

"Filipinos look down on copycats so I didn't want to make that mistake. I wanted an all-female group that was similar to the showgirls in Las Vegas," Elgin says. "In Las Vegas, showgirls are the main attraction. They are stars in their own right. I wanted that for the *Tomadoras.*"

So Elgin tapped some friends to help launch the *Tomadoras,* an all-female group who can bartend with the best of them. She enlisted the help of Jay Rufino, an award-winning bartender who has won competitions abroad, to coach the girls and Heherson Sashi Esmeralda to do the choreography.

To polish the *Tomadoras'* looks, Elgin went to Salon De Orient de Acropolis for hair and makeup and Revive for skin care. For sheer impact, Elgin was able to get Ford and use its vehicles to bring the girls to their gigs.

The result was a class act that only the *Tomadoras* could provide. And bargoers immediately responded to their sassy style and feisty personalities. It was not surprising then when Jose Cuervo Tequila immediately signed up the girls for its recent bar tour which included the hottest clubs in town such as Ponana, Eros, Culture Club, Venezia, Arkdia, Pier 1, Ratsky, Che and Blue Onion.

RAFFY and Elgin Zulueta believe that although their kind of business is tough and competitive, there's a piece of the pie for everyone.

Elgin reports that Jose Cuervo Tequila was very happy with the *Tomadoras.* "The *Tomadoras'* provides not just entertainment. Their entertainment translates to real business. Our aim is for the group to help increase product and bar sales."

The previous year has been good to Successories, and Elgin is optimistic that this year will be the same despite the gloomy forecasts about the country's economy. Raffy says, "I think Filipinos will still be spending but they're going to be wiser."

Besides, the young couple is confident that Successories has that competitive edge to produce real results for their clients.

"In this business, it's not just about how hard you work or how great your concept is. You have to make sure that you can implement the concept and most importantly, if it will be successful," Elgin explains.

Elgin says Successories has no fine blueprint to assure success. "I just find out what the clients want to achieve and the brand positioning he wants and I work from there. Mainly, I depend on my gut feeling."

Raffy adds, "Ideas just start flowing from Elgin when she sees the place and the crowd. She knows if this concept will work or not. We may be new in the business but Elgin and the people working for us are veterans of the business. Elgin has the right connections and the experience to provide our clients with top service."

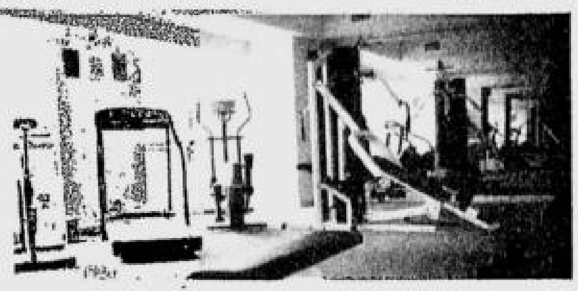
Raffy knows what he is talking about. He was initially hesitant about letting his wife put up Successories but when he saw how good Elgin was he decided to cast his fortune with his wife, too. He now says, "I am investing in my wife."

Raffy used to work with the family lending business and a small firm he and his wife owned as guarantors. They are not both working on Successories full time.

THE STARS of Georgio coffee shop is ideal for businessmen's informal meetings.

CONFERENCE room is available for meetings, seminars and interviews.

BUSINESS center is fully equipped with electronic and communication facilities and secretarial services.



OXFORD Suites' gym for travelers' fitness needs

Expertise and heart serve travellers

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

DESIGNED for business traveling, Oxford Suites, the newest residential hotel in the vicinity, is banking on its proximity to the Makati Central Business District, Rockwell and Fort Bonifacio, to do well.

"Oxford Suites' accommodations speaks for itself as it has more room space at reasonable room rates to offer for its brand new units, compared with most deluxe hotels in the area, giving its customers more value for its money," says Glenn Nakamura, Oxford Suites' general manager.

Starting its operations in August 2001, Oxford Suites along Kalayaan Avenue, has 232 fully furnished rooms and suites. Standard room features include a mini-bar, in-room safe deposit box, satellite TV, IDD/NDD direct dial phones, and deluxe grooming needs. Its "O" suites facilities include a kitchenette, living room, a wrap-around glass wall that provides a breathtaking view of the city skyline. "The accommodations speak well for itself," says Nakamura.

Oxford's business center facilities include secretarial services, duplicating, photocopying, faxing documents and courier coordination. The center's conference room is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities for meetings, seminars and interviews.

Room rates range from $45 to $110. Superior and executive rooms are currently available at over P1,700.

Every month, there is constant improvement at Oxford suites, says Nakamura. Its first outlet, Stars of Georgio, a 24-hour coffee shop and lounge has recently opened in January, followed by the gym with a physical fitness trainer for guests who enjoy their exercise regimen while travelling.

"One of the things that we took a lot of pride was that even though that we are an international company, I've made a decision to hire 100 percent local professionals (Filipinos). We look not just for the knowledge but for the heart," Nakamura said. He added that Oxford Suites has cheery staff to provide excellent guest satisfaction.

By the second quarter, Oxford suites will be opening an Asian/Continental restaurant on the fourth floor.

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Rizal son soared from street vendor to PAL president

From page B1

enough to buy his mother a brand new refrigerator on installment.

Zapanta continued to work while studying Political Science at the University of the Philippines where he was a college scholar.

He says his work at the AFS enabled him to go around the Philippines and meet with different kinds of people but he felt he had to move on because there was no chance of career advancement.

He was also pressured to get a more permanent job since at that time he had gotten married to his wife Nicole and was bent on building a family.

"I left AFS, worked for a while in a sash factory in Taytay before I ended up working at the Philippine Airlines in 1966 as a trainee at the Mactan, Cebu station. I felt like I was starting life all over again and I had to start at the very bottom once more with PAL," Zapanta says.

His capacity for hard work and honest living, however, were immediately noticed by his superiors that he quickly went up the ranks of PAL from a trainee to a freight clerk the following year to a station agent for cargo in 1968.

Those were the only two years that he worked as a rank-and-file employee as he was quickly given a supervisory position.

"The pace of my work at PAL was quite exhilarating. There was no time to think," Zapanta says.

Management trainee

He credits the late PAL chair Roman Cruz for giving him his first management position when the Aquino government took over in 1991. He was appointed VP for sales and services.

When the government leadership changed in 1992, he was again promoted to senior vice president for marketing and sales and he found himself working for Feliciano Belmonte, Dante Santos, Antonio Cojuangco.

He also worked briefly under Carlos Dominguez in 1994 and then Jose "Pepeton" Garcia when the group of Lucio Tan took over the national flag carrier in 1994. He ended up working with Garcia until 1999 when Zapanta decided to go on early retirement after 33 years of service with the company.

He felt it was time to spend more time with his wife Nicole and children Titus, Tugaris, John Rado, Avelino Jr., Maria Salome, Maria Silvana and his 11 grandchildren.

"I got my retirement and for the first time in my life I went on a two-week vacation. I was enjoying it until April when I got a call from the group of Lucio Tan asking me to go back to PAL as president. I went back on April 19,1999," Zapanta says.

Tough times

Even the most experienced of executives would have balked at the challenge to head PAL at that time as it was in the middle of its worst corporate disaster. Its pilots went on strike, causing the company to briefly shut down operations, and it was buried under billions of dollars worth of debt.

It had to run to the Securities and Exchange Commission to keep its creditors at bay and to develop a rehabilitation plan to rescue the company from bankruptcy.

Zapanta, however, has always been one to size up a challenge and go for it so he took PAL, went in front of the press and creditors to explain that he would lead the company back to profitability. And he did.

He was able to steer the company back to profitability after more than six years of consecutive losses. PAL would have been on its third year of profitability this fiscal year ending March if not for the Sept. 11 tragedy that brought down the global airline industry. He estimates that PAL would end the year with around P2.7 billion in losses.

Zapanta, however, still considers PAL's performance a significant turnaround from an almost bankrupt company. He says he would not have been able to do it without the support of the people.

"I knew it would be difficult so I had to get everybody's help. I decided to have a regular communication platform so that everybody would get the chance to be heard. It was one way to win back the trust and confidence that the management lost in previous years," Zapanta says.

It also helped that he came from the ranks, thus, he related better to the people. They instinctively knew that he was one person they could trust.

"One thing wrong about me I guess is that I don't feel overwhelmed by money or position. I am very open and transparent and I still have the same values as I did when I was a freight clerk over 36 years ago," Zapanta says.

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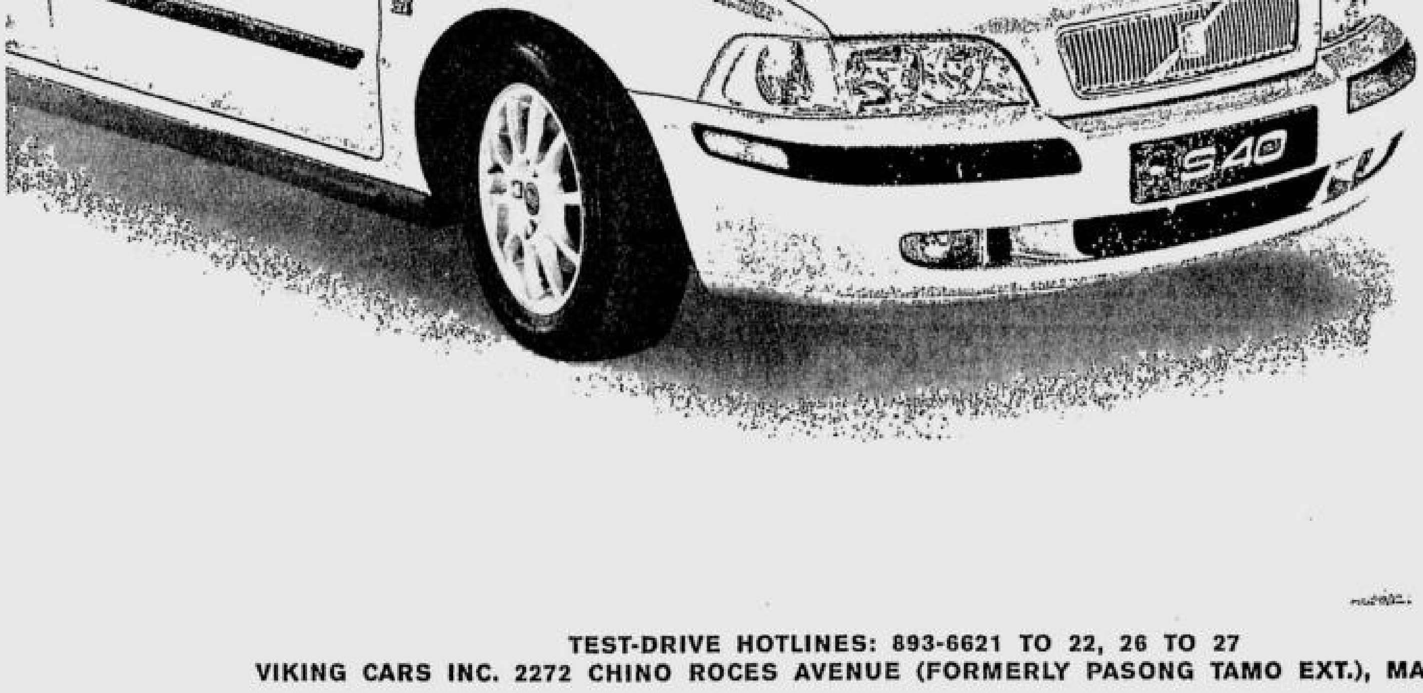

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People, Events & Products

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Aries Espinosa, Editor

British education through Easton

HERIOT-WATT University, one of the most prestigious universities in the UK, launches a new management program in the Philippines.

Heriot-Watt and Pastor International Centre for Management Studies, a learning institute for premiere British education, are now proud to offer their exclusive bachelor degrees.

Heriot-Watt is a long-established university with a modern approach to education and training. Its main campus is in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

The University's origins date from 1821 when, as a college, it created the skilled people who powered the Industrial Revolution.

Today, it conducts pioneering work in management, engineering, and science, and it educates professionals, leaders, and thinkers of tomorrow.

Heriot-Watt is proud of its record of graduates and is close to the top of the employment league table for UK universities. This makes the University one of the most sought after British schools.

Graduates from the School of Management have gone on to develop successful careers in business and finance.

Together with Easton, Heriot-Watt's Management Program is a flexible method of studying for one of five undergraduate degrees: Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA), BA in Business and Accounting, BA in Business and Finance, BA in Financial Management and Accounting, and BA in Management.

The various degree pathways each provide a balance between academic rigour and practical relevance. They are the equivalent in structure and standard as those delivered on-campus in Edinburgh. The examinations are set and marked by Heriot-Watt staff.

The degree awarded to Easton students, therefore, are identical to those given to students studying full-time, on campus in Edinburgh.

The novel nature of the Heriot-Watt Management Program supervised by Easton is reflected in its entry and exit routes, the mode of study, the type of student support provided, the location of the study, and its cost.

All students receive their own passport to the Heriot-Watt Web Support System. This system contains student guidance notes, additional materials, and past examination papers. It also enables students to use the chat facility to communicate with other students.

Considering that high school graduates in the Philippines lack Advanced or Scottish Higher Level qualifications, Easton International Centre for Management Studies provides the necessary entry pathway through its special arrangement with Heriot-Watt.

Applications for the 1st intake in June of this year are now in progress. For further information on Heriot-Watt and other associate UK universities and learning institutes such as the Institute of Administrative Management (IAM), Leeds Metropolitan University, University of Lincoln, and the London School of Economics (LSE), University of London, write or call the marketing office at Suite 303,3/F, World Citi Building, 960 Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City with tel. no. 9138377 or 913-8380 loc.303.

NHA'S LTAP IN RIZAL

With her child in tow, Fe Quilang, one of the beneficiaries of the National Housing Authority's Land Tenure Assistance Program (LTAP), receives from Rizal Governor Nini Ynares the certificate of lot award during awarding ceremonies in Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City. The NHA assisted the 87 member-beneficiaries of the Samahang Nagkakaisang Buhay Homeowners Association Inc. (SNBHOAI) in the acquisition of the 4,861-sqm property amounting to P2.146 million. Earlier, Representative Victor Sumulong (left) provided financial assistance of P44,000 to the project beneficiaries under the Lingap Para Sa Mahihirap Program. Others shown are (from left) SNBHOAI president Johnny Dollesin (partly hidden); NHA officer-in-charge for Rizal projects architect Eufemio Jacob, and Rizal board member Jess Palileo.

MILAN, ITALY

E! SENDS WINNER TO MILAN

E! Philippines, in cooperation with United International Pictures (UIP) and Information Gateway (IG) awards the trip for two to Milan prize to Manuel Gonzales Jr. in connection with the special screening of the hit movie 'Zoolander'. Shown are (from left) Trisha Gonzalez of IG; Chris Sy, UIP; Leigh Legaspi, UIP; Sandy Ocampo of E!, and Ody Tolentino, IG.

SAFETY AWARD FOR NESTLE OFFICER

Lipa factory safety officer Edwin Ramilo (right) was recently awarded the Most Outstanding Safety Practitioner during the Safety Organization of the Philippines' (Sopi) 34th National Industrial Safety Convention. The citation was given to Ramilo in recognition of his foresight, initiative and services. He spearheaded and managed Nestle Lipa Factory's safety program which started 1996. Ramilo joined the Lipa factory as safety and environment officer in 1995.

100 products at TLRC fair

THE TECHNOLOGY and Livelihood Resource Center's (TLRC) slogan "The Power of Knowledge" takes a tangible manifestation through quality products and services thousands of Filipinos have learned to excel in.

Take a peek at the best of the best products of 100 TLRC-assisted entrepreneurs, cooperatives, firms, NGOs, SMEs, micro-enterprises and LGUs' Technology and Livelihood Development Centers (TLDCs) from all over the country at TLRC's Trade Fair. The fair runs from Feb. 18 to 24 at Megatrade Hall 1, Building B, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

The Trade Fair, which kicks off TLRC's 25th anniversary activities highlighted by the launching of its seven impact projects, hinges on the theme "Teknolohiya at Kabuhayan, Susi sa Kaunlaran." The theme manifests TLRC's unwavering commitment to foster social and economic development throughout the country.

Aside from the marketing of products and services, the exhibit also serves as a venue for the participants to exchange information and ideas, continue their education, and participate in business consultations sponsored by TLRC.

Products to be featured include baskets, buri crafts, ceramics, fashion accessories, fresh and dried flowers, fresh farm products, footwear and leather goods, furnishings, furniture, garments, handicrafts, handmade papers, hand-woven and linen products, holiday decors, novelty items, organic materials, pottery, processed foods, shell crafts, toys and wood crafts.

They come from Abra, Albay, Bago City, Banga, South Cotabato, Bohol, Catanduanes, Daet, Camarines Norte, Davao del Norte, Ilocos Sur, Laguna, La Union, Negros Occidental, Northern Samar, Nueva Ecija, Nueva Vizcaya, Oriental Mindoro, Palawan, Palayan City, and Quirino, among others.

TLRC has pioneered in livelihood and business technology training, which has created opportunities for the society's different sectors to do business and improve their lives, also through funding assistance. To date, it has conducted in-house, institutional and on-site training for some 300 courses in home-based, agri-aqua and crafts-based businesses.

A real life needs a balancing act

FACE IT. You can't juggle everything.

There will always be multiple demands on our time and emotional availability. And as we grow older, we simply take on more personal and professional responsibilities. Then it becomes a vicious cycle of a juggling act. This can get physically and emotionally challenging, and very tiring.

To get more out of life, strive for a balanced life instead.

A balanced life assures us of a holistic personal development and the opportunity to nurture lifelong relationships.

So how does one attain a balanced life?

- Realize that a balanced life begins by establishing an inner sense of balance. Our words and actions reflect what is in our heart. When we have too many goals, and conflicting ones at that, we live an unbalanced life. When we have no goals at all, and simply let life's pace lead us, we live an unbalanced life too. What's truly important in your life? Reassess your priorities.
- Re-connect. Life is all about being connected to people in a meaningful way. It's the interrelationships among us that make life interesting, fun and exciting. Let's not forget about our family and friends, who despite knowing everything about us, warts and all, still continue to love us. Relationships with them weaken with the busyness of our everyday responsibilities. Let's take time to rebuild these relationships and further nurture them.
- Re-charge. Though you're actively fulfilling one's work responsibilities, time should also be spared to pursue recreation, rest and physical fitness to nurture one's self. Recharging means taking the time to do more for yourself, to rest and nourish your body and spirit.

Know when to slow down and rest. Then go out and experience more of life! Go to the dance, see the play, watch a movie, take time to enjoy your favorite CD, savor a wonderful meal, pamper yourself with a massage, a haircut. Learn a new sport. That's enriching one's self.

But how can one have time to spare? Manage your time well and take an easy-to-prepare meal, like Lucky Me! Supreme. It's a delicious and convenient meal that reenergizes and enables you to do more, and get more out of life.

For at the end of the day or the week, work ends, but life shouldn't. So, for a truly happy and fulfilled life, work for a balanced life now.

Tang packs as good as cash

LOVERS of Hi-Nutrition Tang Orange are up for a special treat as everyone's favorite orange drink gives away more than P6 million in cash in the Tang Orange "KwarTANG-Kwarta" promo.

To join, simply purchase a Tang Orange KwarTANG-Kwarta pack (250g, 500g, 750g, 1kg). Look for four identical prizes in one game row and you automatically win that prize.

Over 4,000 winners and P6 million in prizes will be given away. Loads of cash prizes are up for grabs: P500 (3,260 winners), P1,000 (800 winners), P5,000 (200 winners), P25,000 (5 winners), P100,000 (3 winners) and one lucky winner for the P1 million.

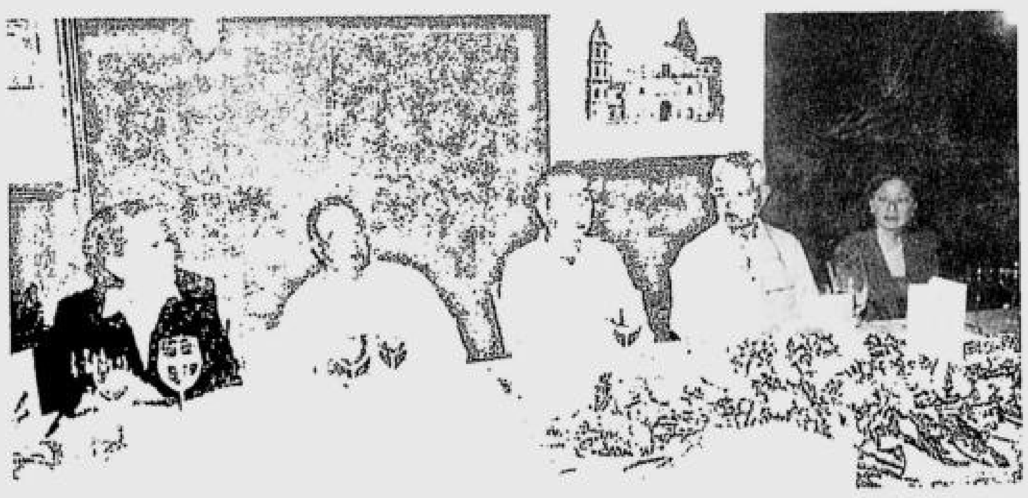
On March 9, you can be the lucky winner for the P1 million in the Tang Orange KwarTANG-Kwarta Grand Raffle draw to be held in "Eat Bulaga" (Channel 7).

It's certainly a double treat for moms and kids from Hi-Nutrition Tang Orange. Now, they can enjoy the great taste and nutrition of the most loved orange juice drink and at the same time, have the chance to win lots of cash.

So, what are you waiting for? Rush off to the nearest supermarket and grab a Tang Orange KwarTANG –Kwarta pack. Promo period is extended until March 30.

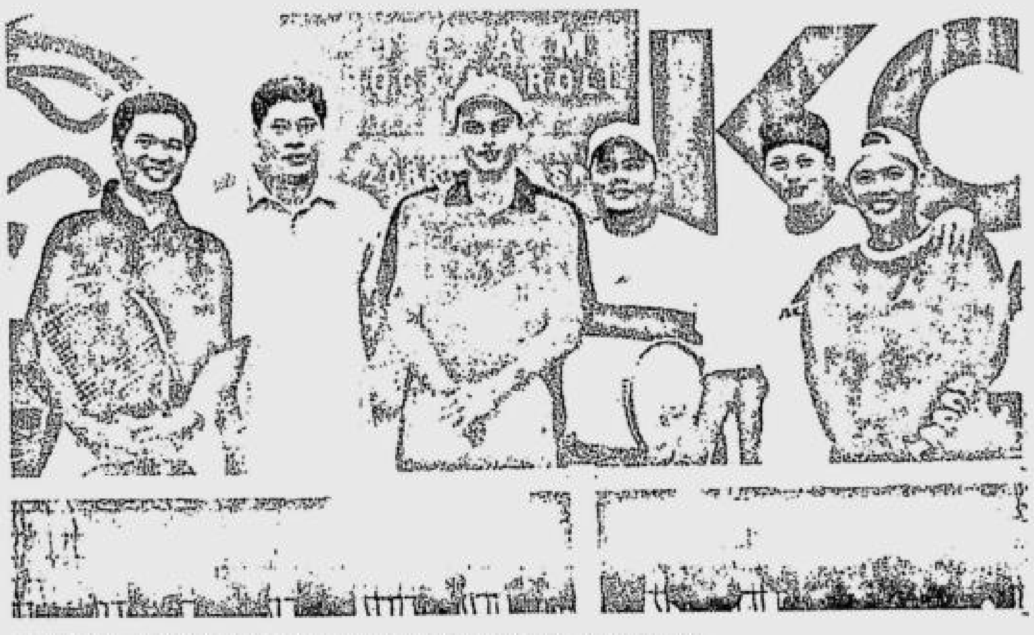
TODDLER DUMEX CHAMP

Kyla de Silva, a three-year-old girl, is now 'officially' a Dumex Champion. The second grand search winner for the toddler category in the 'Dumex Search for Fitter and Brighter Champions', the other champion is the winner for the Pre-School category. The competition was not a pageant or a talent show, but focused on children's total development that includes physical and mental as well as social skills development. The champions went home with prizes courtesy of Dumex worth over P40,000 and Mercury gift certificates of P500 each. Shown from left is Eugene Go, group product manager of Dumex; Mario Marron, AVP of Mercury Drug Corp.; Dr. Lucita Aguilar, pediatrician and chair of the panel of judges; Kyla with mom Dolor; Dex the Dumex mascot; Jean Ortega, field operations manager of Dumex; Tata Albert, Dumex national sales manager; Wilson Edrada, Dumex key accounts manager; teacher Ana Dalisay, gym directress for The Little Gym, Mandaluyong branch, and Raffy Santos, associate product manager of Dumex.



GREPALIFE HONORS YUCHENGCO

Grepalife presented a plaque of appreciation to its founder Ambassador Alfonso T. Yuchengco (middle) in a luncheon ceremony held recently at The Peninsula Manila. Yuchengco served as a member of the Grepalife's board of directors and honorary chair of the executive committee from 1998 to 2001. He vacated the two positions in the light of his recent appointment by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as the Philippines' permanent representative to United Nations in New York. With him are (from left) Susanne Y. Santos, Gabriel Singson, Cesar Virata and Yvonne Yuchengco.



KOLIN SPONSORS ROCK N' ROLL TENNIS

Kolin Home Appliances, maker of the ISO certified No Rust, No Drip Air Conditioner, is associate sponsor to Rock N' Roll Tennis. This year-long tennis camp for all ages is participated by Kolin product endorser and image model Mandy Ochoa, celebrity actors Zoren Legaspi, Kier Legaspi, Miguel Vera, and Jun-Jun Toledo, a former member of the Philippine Davis Cup Team. Their vision is to increase the public's awareness on the sport of tennis and to discover future tennis champs by means of extensive yet fun and exciting tennis training. Shown are Rock N' Roll Tennis constituents with Andrew S. Ahorro, Kolin marketing manager. The Rock N' Roll Tennis camps are located at 71 Timog Avenue, Quezon City and the Metroclub, Makati City. For inquiries, call coach Jun-Jun Toledo at 0917-4078578. For more details about Kolin Home Appliances, visit the Kolin showroom at the ground floor of Kolin Building, Edsa corner Magallanes Avenue, Makati City, with telephone numbers (632)852-1531 to 37, or any appliance center nationwide.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Farmers' will built multi-awarded cooperative

By Mei Magsino
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATANGAS CITY—The will of 59 farmers to have an alternative source of income in 1969 has made their modest undertaking grow into a multi-awarded cooperative with assets worth P75 million and considered as the biggest in the country today.

The founders themselves couldn't believe that the small hut where they started their business is now a three-storey building.

Soro-soro Ibaba Development Cooperative, (SIDC) at Brgy. Soro-soro Ibaba, of this city, now has over 2,170 members, 32 primaries or member cooperatives, and 122 employees.

SIDC has even surpassed the achievements of the best cooperatives in the country. In 1998, Gawad Pitak awarded the cooperative the Best of Hall of Fame for being the top Hall of Famer cooperative for three consecutive years.

"The secret there is very basic. We were honest and we were united. And as we worked hard to maintain and improve the cooperative we started, all our transactions were transparent. There's no room for corruption," said Apolinario Dimaano, 68, one of the founding members who served as treasurer in 1969.

Founders

After seeing a cooperative put up a store in their village, and computing the possible earnings of a Chinese businessman who sold them their animal feeds supply, Victoriano Barte, a farmer, thought of a better income-generating scheme.

"I was the first one he talked to about setting up a cooperative. The idea to set up our own cooperative to supply our animal feeds was brilliant. That means that the Chinese businessman's profit will be ours. And we can use that to grow," Dimaano said. Barte and Apolinario started working on their plan that same day, telling everyone they met about their plan. Luckily, every person they talked with agreed to join.

On March 19, 1969, a week after, 59 members formed their cooperative called Soro-soro Ibaba Farmer's Association with P11,800 as initial capital. The members contributed P200 each to start the business.

At that time, the cooperative got their chicks from Robina farms in Rizal and the feeds from San Miguel.

"Sometimes the truckload of feeds worth P5,000 were delivered here and as treasurer of the group, I had to pay up. The problem was I had only P1,000 in my pocket at that time. What I did to solve the problem was to go around the village and borrow money from friends. And since they knew me as a good person, they lent me the money," Dimaano said.

But when the stakes got higher, Dimaano said all the members helped to raise the money to pay the supplier. "That's when we realized that if we worked together to make this work, we can succeed.

And we did. All it takes is unity, hardwork, and perseverance," he said.

THE COOPERATIVE succeeded because of the members' trust in each other.

They put up a sari-sari store also in Brgy. Soro-soro. That time,it was only a nipa hut.

According to Dimaano, as they saw their cooperative grew, the other cooperatives that came first in the village closed down. "The other cooperatives failed because the officers and members did not pay back their loans. Here at SIDC, we only lend one half of the member's share. That way, we are protected. Fortunately, our members are also honest people who never ran away from their debts," Dimaano added.

Bigger and better

Dimaano admitted that they used to get sneers from their detractors when they started the cooperative.

"Some people would really taunt us because we were all farmers whose highest educational level was 6th grade. That time, only one of us, our auditor Carmen Sopronio, was a commerce graduate. We said, "so what?" We kept on. And we grew bigger and better," Dimaano said. In 1972, the cooperative changed its name into the Samahang Nayon ng Soro-soro Ibaba, Inc. and started contract-growing hogs to members.

The industry grew along with the cooperative. In 1978, the name was changed again to Soro-soro Ibaba Consumers Cooperative. The name Soro-soro Ibaba Development Cooperative was adopted in 1983 and is still being used now.

From the 59 founding members, the SIDC membership grew to its present 2,170 members.

At present, with 32 primaries, or co-operative members, SIDC has 122 employees and a 9-member board of directors.

From the P11,800 initial capital, SIDC now has P75 million.

"Nobody among the founding members ever thought that what they started out as an alternative source of income could become as big as this," said chairman of the board of directors Angelito Bagui.

In 1987, SIDC started its own feedmill at Soro-soro Karsada, also in this city. The 7,572-square meter feedmill compound now produces an average of 5,000 bags a day of feeds for hogs, poultry and fish. The members of the cooperative buy the feeds, a way of patronizing their own products.

The members have a double advantage in this scheme: they get quality feeds at low price and at the end of the year, get a patronage refund of what they bought from the cooperative.

"In the business of feedmills, the most difficult part to establish is its market," said SIDC general manager Rico Geron, "but in our case, that is not a problem. Our market was already there even before we put up our feedmills."

SIDC's contract growing business, also known in the province as "paiwi" gives the member hog fatteners to grow. The cooperative shoulders the stocks, feeds, veterinary services, and marketing. Here, the cooperative and the contract grower get an equal share of the profit.

Presently, SIDC has 80 heads of hog fatteners, 15 of them breeders. To ensure high quality piglets, SIDC started artificial insemination on March 1998. A cost-efficient way to maintain high-grade boars, this caters to members and associate members of the cooperative.

At present, SIDC has a pig farm in Taysan, Batangas, with 1,500 sows. Complete with first class piggery facilities, the pig farm has also high-grade sows and boars. But hog buyers have become very choosy nowadays.

SIDC started its own hog selling pens with electronic weighing scales and clean facilities to prevent the spread of diseases. This selling pen also speeds up the sales of hogs.

Diversification

SIDC also invested in fish culture. It has now 153 tilapia and bangus fish cages in Agoncillo town.

Here, the fishes are fed with SIDC aqua feeds.

"We learned that from the foot-and-mouth disease in the past. Do not put your eggs in just one basket," Geron said. "We diversified into other businesses that can support us. So, even if one fails, we can't be crippled."

SIDC has also its own expanded credit line, a minimart, convenience store, meat stalls, member-savings, rentals of vehicles and catering equipments, cable TV, and is now exploring the potentials of meat canning.

SIDC's pro-meat now has canned *adobo, caldereta, paksiw, humba*, and *bopis* in the market. "I can't say we're the most successful cooperative. But if you look at how SIDC started, from a nipa hut to a three-storey building, a cooperative now worth millions, with so much income and job generating projects, I guess we are successful," Bagui said.

"But we deal with everyday business with the zest of someone just starting." According to Bagui, the cooperative is still looking at the possibilities of investing on a waste water treatment facility, a gas station/auto shop, continuous development of meat processing plant, a diagnostic laboratory for animals, a supermarket, a training center and a rural bank.

"We're planning to put up our rural bank right here in the rural area, where most of them are, and not in the suburbs," he said

Most awarded

SIDC has been Gawad Pitak's favorite from 1993 to 1997 when it got the Best in Profitability award. In 1998, Gawad Pitak awarded the cooperative the Best of Hall of Fame.

SIDC also got the third place as most outstanding small farmers' cooperative in 1989, the best co-op citizen awards in 1996, the most outstanding cooperative and most outstanding Filipino enterprise, also from Gawad Pitak.

In 1998, the UA&P gave SIDC the Outstanding Social Enterprise for People Development award. In 1999, the Cooperatives Development Authority awarded SIDC as the most outstanding agricultural cooperative.

Watch and electronics firms promote tourism

WORLD renowned watchmaker Omega and top consumer electronics manufacturer Philips join hands in presenting the Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002, a modeling and personality competition that aims to promote the country's tourism and fashion sectors.

Having pioneered countless precision timepieces for more than 150 years, Omega once more creates a benchmark this time in a modeling tilt set in the county's premier vacation spot.

"As one of the presentors, we believe that this competition is a worthwhile contribution in showcasing the Philippines as a prime tourist destination that is truly world class much like an Omega timepiece," says F.E. Zuellig (M) Inc. general manager Louie Vargas.

Philips Consumer Electronics general manager Tony Lim likewise sees the modeling search as an effective venue in rekindling the festive character of the country, particularly Boracay. "Philips has always 'made things better' and being one of the presentors of Boracay Bodies, we hope to be able to do our share in making the people aware of the excitement that awaits them in Boracay."

Boracay Bodies Model Search 2002 is open to male and female contestants. For more information, please call 813-1338, 893-9355 and 816-3109.

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TENDER NOTICE

MacroAsia-Eurest Catering Services (MECS), the first fully-functional In-flight catering company to operate within Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) is a partnership among three highly reputable & progressive companies, namely - MacroAsia Corporation, Eurest International (a division of publicly-listed UK company Compass Group) & Singapore Airport Terminal Services (a subsidiary of Singapore Airlines).

Today, MacroAsia-Eurest Catering Services is the market leader in the airline catering industry, serving the meal requirements of fifteen international airlines.

To support its various requirements, MECS invites all interested subcontractors/ suppliers to submit tender bids for the following items:

Tender Code	*Item Description*
MECS-TC-02-MT	***Meat** (Beef, Lamb, Pork, Veal)*
MECS-TC-02-PD	***Poultry** (Chicken, Duck, Quail, Turkey, Egg (Fresh and Pasteurized) Butter, Margarine, Cheese, Cream, Yogurt, Ice Cream and Milk*
MECS-TC-02-BV	***Beverages** (Mineral Water, Juices, Carbonated Beverages, Wines)*
MECS-TC-02-DG	***Dry Goods** (Canned Dry Goods, Condiments, Sauces, Pasta Noodles, Grocery Items, Nuts, Oils, Food Extracts, Rice and Grains, Vinegar)*
MECS-TC-02-BR	***Breads** (Pastries, Various Bakery Items)*
MECS-TC-02-SF	***Seafoods** (Prawns, Lapu-Lapu fillet, Maya-maya Fillet, Nile Perch Tanguingue Fillet, Eel Fillet, Parrot Fish Fillet, Bangus Fillet, Scallops and Lobster Tail)*
MECS-TC-02-FV	***Fruits and Vegetables** (Fresh, Frozen, Canned, Preserved, Processed)*
MECS-TC-02 DI	***Disposable Items** (Dish Foil, Plastic Bags, Cling Wrap, Foil Cover, Aluminum Foil Roll, Trash Bags, Plastic Cutleries)*

Tender application forms are available at the MECS Commercial Department from 9:30 to 11:30am, and from 1:30 to 4:30pm from **February 18 to 26, 2002 ONLY**.

Deadline for the submission of bids is **on or before March 01, 2002** (3:00pm). Subcontractors are required to submit/deposit the completed bid form in the Tender Box located at the Security Office of MECS.

Shortlisted subcontractors will be asked to present properly marked samples of their products on or before March 20, 2001. The required two (2) pieces of samples are to be submitted to MECS Commercial Department.

MACROASIA-EUREST CATERING SERVICES (MECS)
Catering City, ASIA Site, Kalayaan Road
Cor. West Service Road, Merville Exit, NAIA, Pasay City 1300
Tel. No.: (632) 821-3060 Fax: (632) 821-2044
E-mail: commercial@macroasia-eurest.com

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- not over 40 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course
- at least three (3) years managerial experience in retail operations

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- not over 40 years old
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- with at least three (3) years work experience in all accounting operations
- proficient in computer software applications

PERSONNEL MANAGER

- not over 40 years old
- graduate of Behavioral Science, Law, Psychology or any 4-year Management course
- with extensive experience in personnel management
- must be able to build and maintain professional relations with people in the organization

TREASURY MANAGER

- female, not over 40 years old
- graduate of Accounting or Banking & Finance
- with at least three (3) years experience in funds management or treasury functions
- familiar with banking operations and Central Bank procedures

Interested parties may apply personally from Mon. to Fri., 9am to 5pm or send their comprehensive resume with recent photo to:

The Recruitment Division Manager
400 Carlos Palanca Street, Quiapo, Manila

E-mail: Recruit.SM.HO@sm-shoemart.com

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EMPLOYED OR NOT EMPLOYED MAY APPLY AT:

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DOLE LICENSE NO.: M-02-00-031

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- Female / Single / 25 to 30 years old
- Must be Accounting graduate
- With 2 years work exp. as Credit & Collection Officer
- Should know how to drive and with driving license

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Lot 2 Teresita Drive, Mañalac Ind'l. Subd.,
Bagumbayan, Taguig, M.M.
Tel. No. 838-6828 / 838-4211

MAKE A CAREER CHOICE ONLINE.

POSITION TITLE:

National Research and Development Coordinator

JOB DESCRIPTION:

General: Take charge of research program development, training and packaging of materials related to community-managed health approaches.

Specific:

1. Together with research consultant, develop research design and implementation plans for researchers related to community-managed health development with special focus on reproductive health;
2. Assist HPN Manager in developing project concepts and proposals for community-managed health approaches;
3. Oversee the development of training curriculum and behavior-centered materials on community-managed reproductive health and family planning;
4. Conduct trainings and other capacity building related to reproductive health and family planning;
5. Write reports and supervise the packaging of these reports according to standards set by Save the Children;
6. Provide technical support to the Metro Manila and West Visayas program offices on programming for community-managed health development;
7. Assist in advocacy and funds generation activities in support of reproductive health and family planning.

Requirement:

1. Strong interest and capacity to grow in community health development and programming, with focus on family planning and reproductive health;
2. Strong interpersonal and verbal communication skills;
3. Above average skills in research, where added expertise in participatory methods would be strong advantage;
4. Excellent writing skills;
5. At least with beginning skills in such applications as Microsft Word and Excel, with a strong desire to further develop capabilities in other applications such as Powerpoint and Epi-Info.

Please send all resumes to MS. EMILY DE LEON at #1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapulapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City or at Save the Children, P.O. Box 4448, Manil Central Post Office, Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

All application letters and resumes should be received by **February 28, 2002.**

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COMPUTER PROGRAMMERS

to be part of our Technical Support Team

☐ Graduate in any computer related course, preferably:
  - Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
  - Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering
☐ Good communication skills
☐ Willing and capable to do field work
☐ Below 24 years of age and of good moral character
☐ Familiarity with financial institution operations an advantage

Accepting Applicants for:
LUZON: Pangasinan and NCR
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PLEASE SEND YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME WITH 2X2 PHOTO AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

LUZON:
KA-015-02 MB
c/o Phil. Daily Inquirer
G/Floor Trinity Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila

MINDANAO:
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Qualifications:

- Must be willing to be relocated to Zamboanga City
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- More than adequate knowledge on costing and systems preferably under a manufacturing environment
- Must be computer literate and a team player.

Successful applicant could look forward to above industry Compensation/benefits package on top of a promising career growth.

Interested parties may send their application letter to:

P.O. Box 308
c/o Human Resources
and Administration Division

FUNDACIÓN SANTIAGO

is currently in need of

COORDINATOR

for its

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

☑ Good inter-personal skills.
☑ Capacity and experience to deal and engage with Academic and Cultural institutions from the public and private sector at the national and local levels.
☑ Above average communication skills in English and Filipino.
☑ Event-management expertise.
☑ Three years experience in an equivalent position.
☑ Willing to be trained.
☑ An academic background on History is a plus.
☑ Knowledge in Spanish will be considered positively.

Please send your application letter together with your resumé to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Unit 1209 West Tower, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Metro Manila

Applications should be in by **March 1, 2002.**

FUNDACIÓN SANTIAGO

is currently in need of

TWO (2) PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS

to be assigned in Laguna or Quezon.

☑ graduate of any four-year course in Social Science.
☑ four-year work experience in the following areas: livelihood programs, training, community organizing and networking
☑ familiarity with issues affecting the lives of the rural youth.
☑ above average communication skills in English and Tagalog.
☑ has the capacity to deal and engage with local government officials, line agencies of the government and civil society groups in the project area.
☑ ability to work in a team.
☑ preferably a resident of San Pablo City, Laguna or Lopez, Quezon.

Please send your application letter together with your resumé to:

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Unit 1209 West Tower, PSE Centre
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Deadline for submission: On or before **February 27, 2002.**

A FOOD INGREDIENT COMPANY NEEDS

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST/ MICRO-BIOLOGIST

Qualifications:
- ☑ Female, single
- ☑ 21-25 years old
- ☑ B.S. Food Technology for the Food Technologist
- ☑ B.S. Micro-biology for the Micro-biologist
- ☑ For Food Technologist, preferably one or two years working experience in Food Institution or Food Manufacturing.

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- ✓ comprehensive resumé
- ✓ records of grades
- ✓ 2x2 or 1½ x 1½ ID picture

Construction Company has immediate opening for the following positions:

- **Documentation Officer** - knowledgeable in documentation process for Pagibig Loans. Hands on experience in processing of loan documentation. 25 to 35 years of age. Preferably female college graduate and an achiever.
- **Marketing Graduate** - Microsoft Excel & MS Word proficiency is an advantage, 22-25 years of age

We offer an attractive compensation package to successful applicants.

Submit bio-data with 2 ID pictures to:
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Diliman, Quezon City

Museo Pambata Foundation, Inc.

Museum Tour Guide

- Fluent in oral & written English & Filipino
- Skilled in Customer relations
- Creative, resourceful, team player
- Good voice projection
- Pleasing personality
- College graduate, 20-24 years old

Personally bring resume, Transcript of Records 2 pcs. 2x2 photo and NBI Clearance to
Museo Pambata Foundation, Inc.
Roxas Blvd. Cor. South Drive, Manila

**Deadline of submission is on February 22, 2002*

URGENT JOB OPENINGS

One (1) Asst. System Administrator

- At least one (1) year experience in handling Redhat 7.0 LINUX and WINDOWS 2000 server softwares
- Familiar w/ internet mail server programs (IMAIL 7.0, MAIL MAX and SEND MAIL)
- ECE/Computer Engineering/Computer Science Graduate

Eight (8) experienced Web Developers

Apply personally at:
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room 801, Taipan Place
Emerald Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City

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Please send resumé to Kwikmed Pharmaceuticals, 635 Gen. Malvar Street, Unit M03 Casa Catalina, Malate, Manila

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- Computer literate

Look for: Mrs. Umali T-5319590
Send resumé, 2x2 colored picture and NBI clearance at C.G. Umali Commercial 345 Barangka Drive, Mandaluyong City

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance

COMMUNITY-BASED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECT

The Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP) of the Department of Finance is inviting applicants to fill in the following positions:

One (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANT/ PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST

Rural Infrastructure Engineer (For Region VII)

Qualifications:
- Must be a licensed Civil Engineer
- Must have at least 3 years experience in the field of Rural Infrastructure projects preferably on vertical structures, roads and bridges, and water supply investigation, design and implementation
- Good grasp in Detailed Engineering activities and preparation of contract documents
- Must know how to deal with rural communities
- Must be able to speak and understand the local dialect or a resident of Central Visayas.

One (1) PROJECT SUPERVISION SPECIALIST

(For Region V)

Qualifications:
- Must be a graduate of Fisheries, Marine Biology or in any related field
- Must have at least 3 years experience in implementing natural resource management projects especially coastal areas
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts
- With very good technical writing and communication skills
- Must be computer literate
- Must be able to speak and understand the local dialect or a resident of Region V.

One (1) PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

(For Central Office)

Qualifications:
- Must be a Certificated Public Accountant
- Must have at least 3 years experience in government accounting
- Must have at least 3 years experience in a foreign-assisted project
- Must be computer literate
- Must be of good moral character
- Must have good communication skills, both oral and written.

One (1) FINANCIAL ANALYST

(For Central Office)

Qualifications:
- Must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy or BSBA major in Accounting
- A Certified Public Accountant preferred, but not required
- With at least 3 years experience in government accounting preferably for local government units
- Must have at least 3 years experience in a foreign-assisted project
- Must have good communication skills, both oral and written
- Must possess the ability to work well with LGUs, communities and multi-disciplinary team of technical staff and experts
- Must have a relevant experience in financial statement analysis
- Must be computer literate.

Interested applicants may send their letter of application, resumé, transcript of records complete reference information and 2x2 photo on or before **February 22, 2002** to

The Project Director
Community Based Resource Management Project
c/o Municipal Development Fund Office
Podium Level, DOF Building
Roxas Blvd. cor. P. Ocampo Sr. St.
Malate, Manila

TAIAN (SUBIC) ELECTRIC, INC.

A Taiwanese based company specialized & engaged in manufacturing of Magnetic Contactor, Thermal Overload Relays & Circuit Breaker, Honored to be as ISO-9002 certified company is urgently looking for outstanding professionals to assume these key positions in our company.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER

- Male/Female, 25-35 years of age
- Graduate of Industrial Engineer or any other related courses
- Familiar in Motion/Time study and Production Operation analysis
- Computer literate especially in Excel Access and with good moral character
- Good in mathematical skills

MANDARIN-ENGLISH INTERPRETER

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- With pleasing personality & good moral character
- Ability to read, write and speak Mandarin
- University/College graduate

JAPANESE-ENGLISH INTERPRETER

- Male/Female not more than 30 years of age
- With pleasing personality & good moral character
- Ability to read, write and speak Japanese
- University/College graduate

We are very much eager to receive applicants who graduated from reputable University. Salary offer is negotiable.

Qualified applicants may send their Resumé together with 2x2 pictures-transcript of records and diploma. NBI clearance, Employment Certificate and other documents to HRD of Taian Subic Electric Inc. SBIP-I Argonaout Hiway Cor. Braveheart St. SBFZ 2222 Tel. No. (047) 252-1668 Fax No. (047) 252-1661 or thru SBMA Labor Center SBFZ 2222.

SENIOR ARCHITECT DESIGNER

Qualifications:
- ☑ At least 5 years experience in Interior Designing, Space Planning and Project Management
- ☑ License not required
- ☑ Well versed in Autocad
- ☑ Should be at least 28 years old

PROJECT MANAGER

Qualifications:
- ☑ With experience in finishing and handling of project construction
- ☑ Background in Interior Designing, Space Planning and Project Management
- ☑ Familiar with construction tools and manpower management
- ☑ Well versed in Autocad

Send your resumé with 2x2 picture and Transcript of Records at **Second Floor, Almara Building, Buencamino Street, Alabang, Muntinlupa City**. Tel. Nos. **809-3289/90**; Fax No. **809-0346** *(Previous applicants need not apply).*

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Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
March 3, 2002 from 8am to 5pm

Interview in Iloilo at:
Amigo Terrace Hotel
March 9, 2002 from 8am to 5pm

Interview in Bacolod at:
Alhambra Hotel
March 10, 2002 from 8am to 5pm

Send your resume prior to February 23, 2002
For Manila session:
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center/PEI
c/o Patrick V. Laud
16-A Lilim Street, Dona Petrona Subdivision
Capitol Site, Quezon City

For Visayas & Mindanao sessions:
Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center/PEI
c/o NLP Consultancy Office
2nd Floor, Amigo Terrace Mall
Corner of Iznart & Delgado Street, Iloilo City

After February 23, 2002, please contact
In Manila:
Patrick Laud, Phone: 427-6619 or 0917-813-5628
E-mail: patlaud@pacific.net.ph

In Iloilo City:
Phone: 321-2388 or 0917-278-2485
E-mail: panging@skyinet.net

In Bacolod City Phone: 495-2189

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Applicants with the following qualifications are preferred
- > Personally committed to the Sari-Sari Fashion Philosophy
- > Experience in Management, Marketing, Sales, or Merchandising
- > Have successfully operated their own business
- > Possesses outstanding credentials supporting interest and ability to learn

Qualified parties should secure an application form from:

The Sari-Sari Franchising Office
34 Wilson, Greenhills West, San Juan
Tel.: 6367608, 7462690 or email: regtorres@yahoo.com
Accomplished forms should be submitted not later than 4 March 2002

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care

CARE International, one of the world's best-known NGOs, works in 60 countries to provide development and relief assistance to the poor.

CARE Philippines, an international non-government organization implementing a three-year project entitled Community Organizing – Fisheries Resource Management Project (CO-FRMP) under the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (DA-BFAR), Regional Offices IV, V & VIII is in need of qualified applicants for the following positions for Sapian Bay, Region VI. These positions are for manpower pooling only.

1 PROJECT TEAM LEADER
2 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPVG. SPECIALIST
1 ADMIN./FINANCE OFFICER
7 COMMUNITY ORGANIZERS

Applicants for these positions must be graduates in a job-related discipline, with at least 3 years experience in rural development, enterprise development, cooperative strengthening or community organizing work and sustainable fisheries management.

The task is to strengthen people organizations and cooperatives for the sustainable use of fishery resources and income diversification of fisherfolks.

CARE offers a stimulating work environment, and attractive remuneration and benefits. Please email/fax your two-page bio-data within 5 days to: David Neff, Country Director, or Email to: carephil@care.org.ph or fax to: (02) 551-2631. CARE regrets it can reply only to short-listed applicants.

FEMALE FASHION DESIGNER

- Not more than 35 years old
- Must have good marketing & managerial skills
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Apply in person with resumé and Sketches at MICO

MICO

302 Level 3 Shangri-La Plaza, Edsa,
Mandaluyong City Tel: 634-8048, 634-8052

TECHNIKOS CONSULTING, INC.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Knowledge in Adobe Photoshop, Freehand, and CorelDraw. Can produce high quality graphics and illustrations on the Mac or PC or both. Will be involved in the production of multimedia, web applications, electronic page layouts. Must have portfolio of high quality work samples. Send cover letter and resumé to:

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Makati Central Post Office
1265 Makati City

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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
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"Absent with the body to be present with the Lord"
2 Corinthians 5:8

ATTY. MOISES L. SALONGA, SR.

Peacefully returned to his Creator
September 4, 1919 - February 14, 2002

His bereaved children **Fr. Mameng, Tina** and **Jimmy Bustos, Cora** and **Philip Adao,** and **Cynthia** and **Greg Pizarro**; daughter-in-law **Marlyn Salonga**; grandchildren **Joy, Marmoi, Bajin, Janina, Moity, Paul, Gelo, J.J., Fr. John, Camille, Francis** and **Therese** request the pious readers to pray for the repose of his soul.

His family in heaven **Natividad Meneses** and **Moises Salonga Jr., Victorino** and **Pelagia Salonga, Pedro** and **Jesus Salonga** welcome him home.

His remains lie in St. Joseph and Holy Family Chapel, Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue (Broadway), New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, February 21, 2002. The funeral procession will leave for Bambang, Bulacan, Bulacan at 12 noon and the Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at 3:00 p.m., at San Isidro Labrador Parish Church.

Card of Thanks

To the Jesuit Community of Davao
The Ateneo de Davao University
The Ateneo College of Law
Faculty, Staff, Alumni, Students, Tau Mu Fraternity
Sigma Tau Mu Sorority
Dr. Helen M. Garrett
Atty. Jose Barles
Carlos Villa-Abrille & Sons, Inc.
Benefactors, Friends, Relatives

My heart goes to you filled with affection and gratitude for your kindness in sharing my grief when my brother, EPIFANIO died on January 28, 2002.

Please continue remembering him with love in your prayer.

May God bless you a hundredfold.

Dr. Nenita E. Estrellado

Gertrudes P. Carlos-Chung

(1910 - 2002)

Died February 15, 2002 at the age of 91.

Survived by her only sister **Paz**; children: **William & Maritess, Gilay & Dennis, Itet & Bill, Jonnie, Inan & Jerry and Khal**; grandchildren; **Willy boy, Ania, Aaron and Aina, Lhen-len, Edward and Elaine, Vanessa, Samantha and Megan, Pee wee, Stefannie and Pamela Sue.**

Her remains lie in state at Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Hi-way, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at the Heavens Gate Memorial Park 1, Antipolo City after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass.

ROSARIO BLANDO TABAYOYONG

Peacefully joined her Creator on February 15, 2002 at the age of 81.

Her bereaved husband, FILOMENO, Sr., children, VICTOR, Sr., Dr. FIL & MAREFE, REGINA, LUZ, JING & ELLEN, ESTELA & RUPERTO & AMELIA; sisters MILAGROS (†), LOURDES (†), AMPARO & LORETO (†); brothers JOSE (†) and BENJAMIN; grandchildren, VIC-VIC, MELVIN, MARK, LORRAINE GRACE, MAY ISABEL, LOREN RIZA, JP, JEROME, JOMMEL, ELAINE, JUNIOR & RUELL, relatives and family friends, request the pious reader to pray for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Happy are those who have died in the Lord, let them rest from their labors for their good deeds will go with them."
Rev. 14:13

COL. ERNESTO C. CASINTAHAN, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on 13 January 2002 · at the age of 80.

His loving wife **Virgie**; children and their spouses **Ada & Stuart, Drs. Ernie Jr. & Liza, Rene & Chato, Albert & Helen**; grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 20, 2002 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

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†

EDILBERTO "Tinoy" A. DEL ROSARIO VI

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on February 5, 2002 at the age of 30.

His bereaved wife, **Ledillin,** and loving parents, **Eddie** and **Nora,** together with other family members wish to express their heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to those who offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers and in many ways condoled with and comforted them in their hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Antonio "Tony" Gueco Yumul

who joined our Lord and Creator on February 7, 2002

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses, and prayers, sent flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and days of prayer and who, in countless and immeasurable ways, condoled with and comforted us in our moment of grief.

May the good Lord bless all of you.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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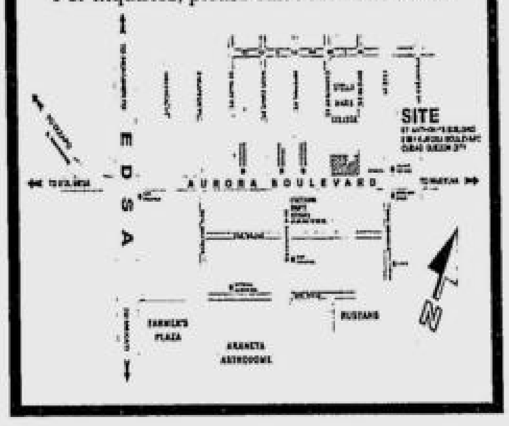

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PHILAM LIFE

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby notified that **DR. HILARIO A. CASIMIRO** whose picture and address appear below has ceased to represent The Philippine American Life and General Insurance Company or PHILAMLIFE in any capacity whatsoever in view of his resignation as underwriter effective **April 25, 2001.**

DR. HILARIO A. CASIMIRO
527-A Silencio Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila

Any transaction made or entered into by this person for and on behalf of PHILAMLIFE after **April 25, 2001** is not valid and will not be honored by us.

(PDI – Feb. 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CENTER FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT
Tuguegarao City
Tel. Nos. 844-1748, 844-5514, 844-5341 & 844-5178
E-mail address: dohreg2@cag.pworld.com.ph
Fax No. 846-7230 & 846-7240

INVITATION TO BID

The DOH-Center for Health Development, Tuguegarao City, hereby invites interested suppliers to provide drugs and medicines, medical, surgical, laboratory and dental supplies and office, janitorial, computer supplies and equipment to this Office.

Interested suppliers who can provide the above-mentioned item may obtain documents from the Secretariat upon presentation of the original and photocopy of DOH Certificate of Suppliers Accreditation, License to Operate and Certificate of Product Registration and upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P700.00.

Pre-qualification and issuance of bid/ tender documents	February 25 - March 1, 2002
Pre-bid conference	**March 12, 2002** 9:00 AM (drugs, medicines, medical, surgical, laboratory and dental supplies) 2:00 PM (office, janitorial, computer supplies, equipments)
Opening of bids	**March 19, 2002** (9:00 AM) (drugs and medicines, medical, surgical, laboratory and dental supplies) **March 20, 2002** (9:00 AM) (office, janitorial, computer supplies, equipments)
Venue:	DOH - Center for Health Development Main Conference Hall Carig, Tuguegarao City

The DOH - Center for Health Development, Tuguegarao City reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality in the bids received or to accept bids as maybe advantageous and responsive to the needs of this Office. For more details, call 844-1748 - Secretariat.

(Sgd.) **ERIBERTO M. POLICAR, MD, MPH, CESO III**
Director IV

(PDI – Feb. 15, 16 & 17, 2002)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY

DKT Philippines, Inc., a non-government and non-profit organization invites qualified suppliers to pre-qualify for our future requirements in print, collaterals and other promotional materials.

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- MUST be willing and able to post a guarantee/ performance bond;

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Attn: Ms. Olive Barcelona
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WARNING

Notice is hereby given to the banks and to the general public that imposters with forged transfer certificates of titles pretending to be **Virginia A. Lim** have approached banks and third persons for loans or for the sale of properties of **Virginia A. Lim**. An investigation of a fake title covering a Dasmariñas Village lot is being conducted by the appropriate government agency.

Romulo, Mabanta, Buenaventura
Sayoc & De Los Angeles
30th Floor, Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas, Makati

(PDI - Feb. 17, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
CITY OF PASIG
BRANCH LXX (70)

JATER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Plaintiff/s.
- versus -
REALEX CORPORATION
Defendant/s.
x-----------------------------x

CIVIL CASE NO. 8747
FOR: UNLAWFUL DETAINER

SUMMONS

(Under the RULE ON SUMMARY PROCEDURE)

TO: THE PRESIDENT / MANAGER
REALEX CORPORATION
G/F De La Merced Bldg.,
West Avenue corner Quezon
Blvd., Quezon City

GREETINGS:

The Court having determined that the attached complaint against you is a case which requires summary disposition according to the RULE ON SUMMARY PROCEDURE, you are hereby ordered to file an answer thereto, within a non-extendible period of ten (10) days from receipt of this SUMMONS or SERVICE thereof, with the Clerk of Court of the Metropolitan Trial Court of Pasig, Municipal Town Hall, Pasig, Metro Manila, otherwise judgment will be rendered against you as may be warranted by the facts alleged in the said complaint and as prayed for therein.

WITNESS THE HONORABLE JOSE P. MORALLOS, Presiding Judge of this Court, this 16th day of August, 2001.

(Sgd.) ALBERTO K. GALO
Branch Clerk of Court

—oOo—

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION
METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT
CITY OF PASIG
BRANCH LXX (70)

JATER DEVELOPMENT CORP.,
Plaintiff,
- versus -
REALEX CORPORATION,
Defendant.
x---------------------x

CIVIL CASE NO. 8747
- for -
UNLAWFUL DETAINER

ORDER

Acting on the "Ex-Parte Motion For Leave To Serve Summons By Publication" filed by the plaintiff, through counsel, and finding the reasons stated therein to be well-taken, the prayer in said motion is hereby GRANTED.

ACCORDINGLY, plaintiff is hereby allowed to serve summons upon defendant Realex Corporation by publication in a newspaper of general circulation within Metro Manila pursuant to Sec. 14, Rule 14 of the 1997 Rules of Civil Procedure.

SO ORDERED.

CITY OF PASIG.

October 11, 2001.

(Sgd.) JOSE R. MORALLOS
Judge

(PDI--Feb. 17, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) will conduct a prequalification of prospective bidders for the supply and delivery of the following:

1) One (1) unit	Media CD Kit SYMANTEC Anti-Virus Enterprise Edition 8.0 or latest (Full Product)
2) 2000 Licenses	SYMANTEC Anti-Virus Enterprise Edition 8.0 or latest (SVLP Level H (Government) with One (1) year Upgrade Insurance Free

For prequalification purposes, interested suppliers are required to submit to the Disbursement Control Committee thru the Administrative Services Department, Room 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo Sr. Streets, Malate, Manila not later than **February 25, 2002** photocopies of the following documents (original of Nos. 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes):

1. Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2. Year 2000 Audited Financial Statements (Balance Sheet & Income Statement - Minimum working capital of P1 Million and a networth of P2 Million);
3. Year 2000 Income Tax Return;
4. Company history/profile;

Only those who submit/ comply with the above requirements and are prequalified by the Bank will be invited to participate in the bidding which will be held on a later date to be advised to the prequalified suppliers. Bidding documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

The two (2) envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

For particulars, plese contact the Manager I, Procurement Division III, Administrative Services Department, Rm. 212, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey Building, Tel. Nos. 523-1321/523-2875.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

FOR THE DISBURSEMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE:

(Sgd.) **EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS**
Officer-In-Charge
Administrative Services Department

(PDI--Feb. 17, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

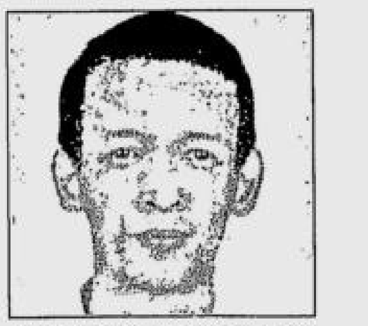
LEAH L. MARIANO

This person is no longer connected with us effective February 8, 2002

COMGLASCO CORPORATION
5/F 111 Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi Sts.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

(PDI--Feb. 17, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



JOSELITO M. NAVALES

This person is no longer connected with us effective September 5, 2001

COMGLASCO CORPORATION
5/F 111 Paseo de Roxas cor. Legaspi Sts.,
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(PDI--Feb. 17, 2002)

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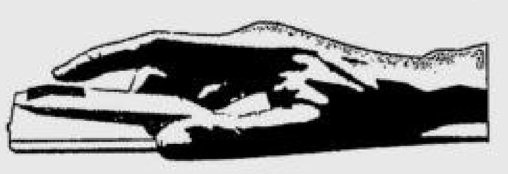

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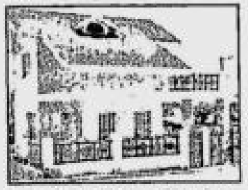

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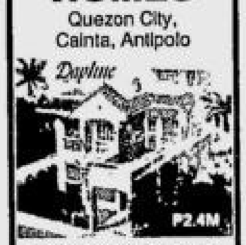

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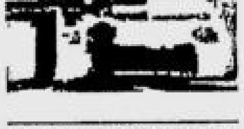

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(PDI-Feb. 7, Mar. 1 & 9, 2002)

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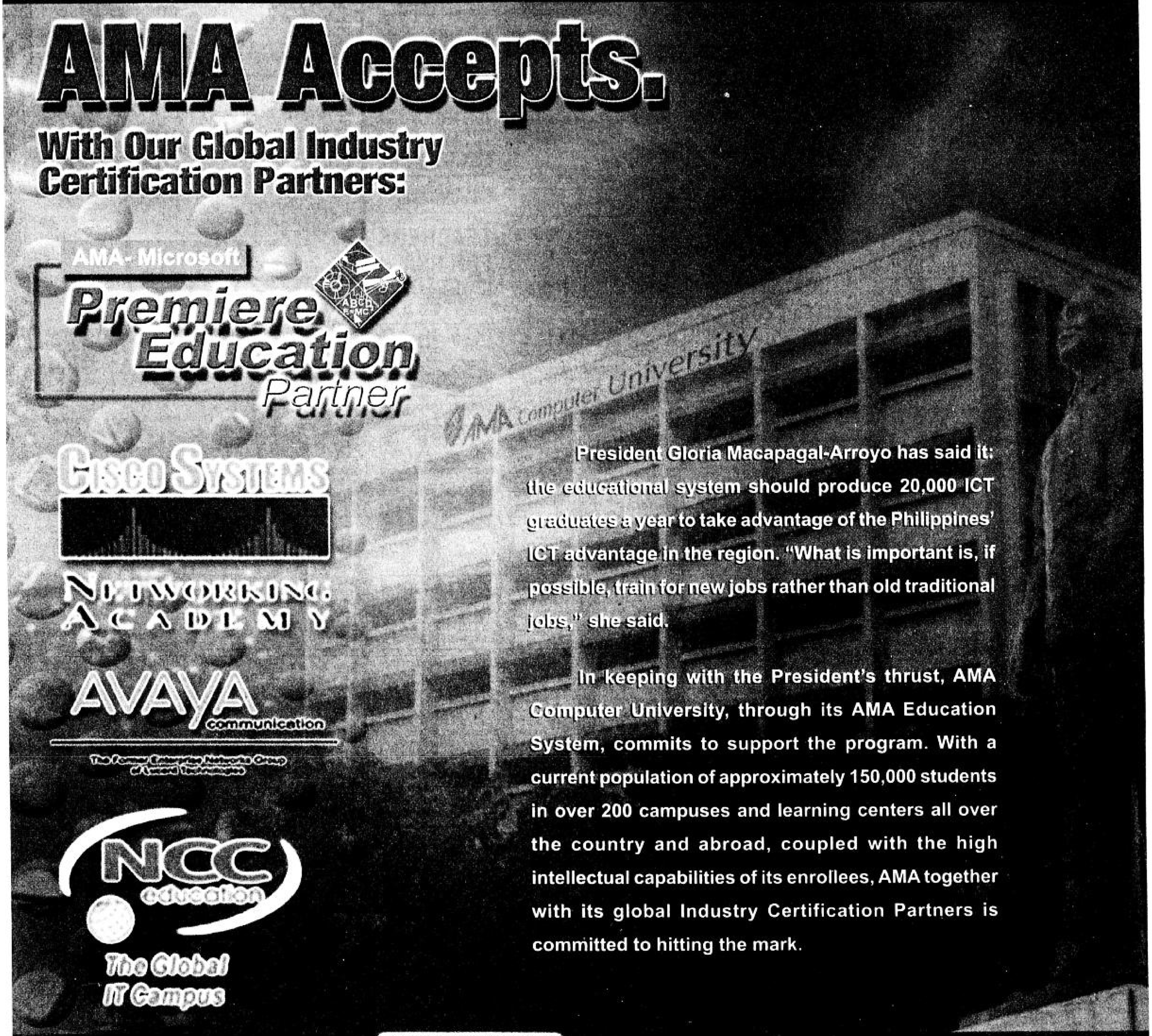

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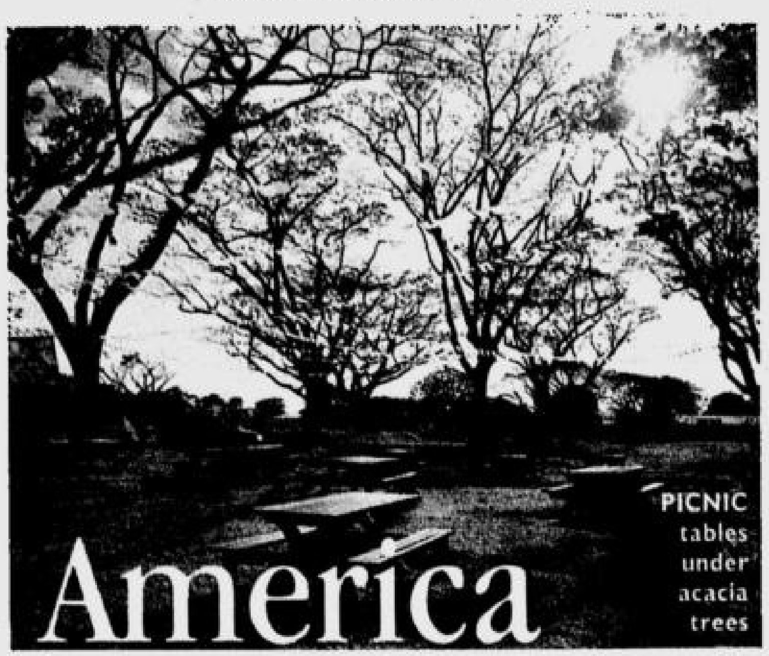

PICNIC tables under acacia trees

America lives on in Clark

By Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Betoy Johnson

THE SPIRIT of America hasn't left Clark after all. Since the government turned it into a special economic zone, the former American air base has attracted tourism-related projects, including one inspired by picturesque lakeshore communities of log cabins typical of Minnesota and certain parts of southern Canada.

Once finished, Clearwater Country Club, with its manmade lakes ideal for swimming, fishing and boating, will provide members a feel of the North American lifestyle. The Yats Group of Co., the project's Hong Kong-based developer, has devoted close to 2.5 hectares of the 3.5-hectare property for this purpose. It has earmarked almost half-a-billion pesos for the whole project.

The lakes are designed to descend gradually so swimmers won't be wading in with the *tilapia*. If plans are carried out successfully, water from the swimming area will cascade to the fishing spot then go into a retention pond, where it will be filtered and treated then pumped back to its source.

"Several swimming areas will be ready by April," says Ike Madamba, the project's assistant CEO. "It will include several pools and coves, including one lined with golden sand." Clearwater has also started constructing the Wild Lagoon, an adjoining water attraction for the adventurous. One can either slide through the Crazy River, a three-story high plunge, or the more serene Lazy River to get to the lagoon.

"Or they can rock-climb before taking the plunge from the top," says Madamba. The 20-ft deep lagoon is also ideal for snorkeling.

New and different

"A consultant first came up with an attraction featuring a series of swimming pools," he says. "[Although] there's a ready market for such an attraction because of our warm weather, it has been done a dozen times before. We wanted something new, a family-oriented destination with a difference." And, of course, one that's safe and less than two hours away by car from Metro Manila.

Although there's no proof of a threat of nuclear contamination from toxic waste alleged by some quarters to have been left behind by the Americans, Clearwater isn't taking any chances. Rather than get water from local sources, says Madamba, the company has tapped Vivendi to provide a steady supply of purified water. What about the possibility of seepage? Underneath the concrete bottom of the lakes is a vast layer of wire mesh and polyethylene to keep real and imagined impurities out.

AMERICA/ p.C6

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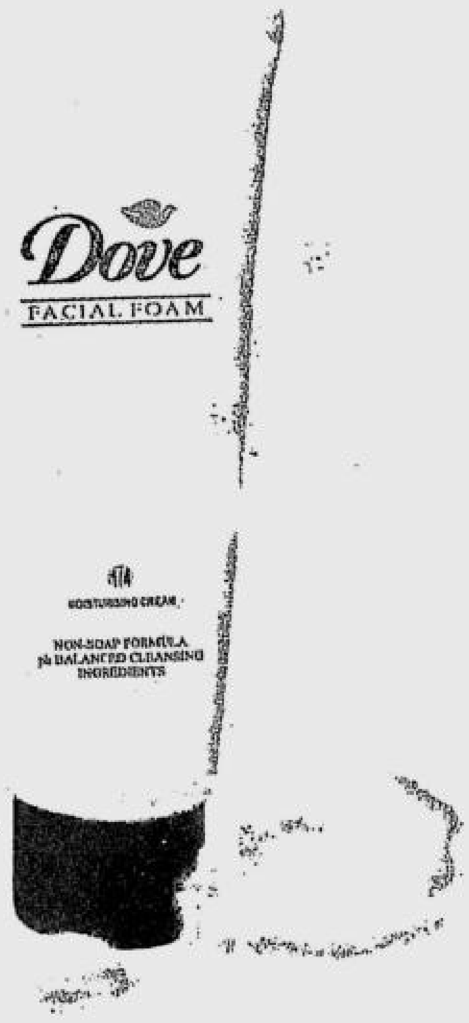

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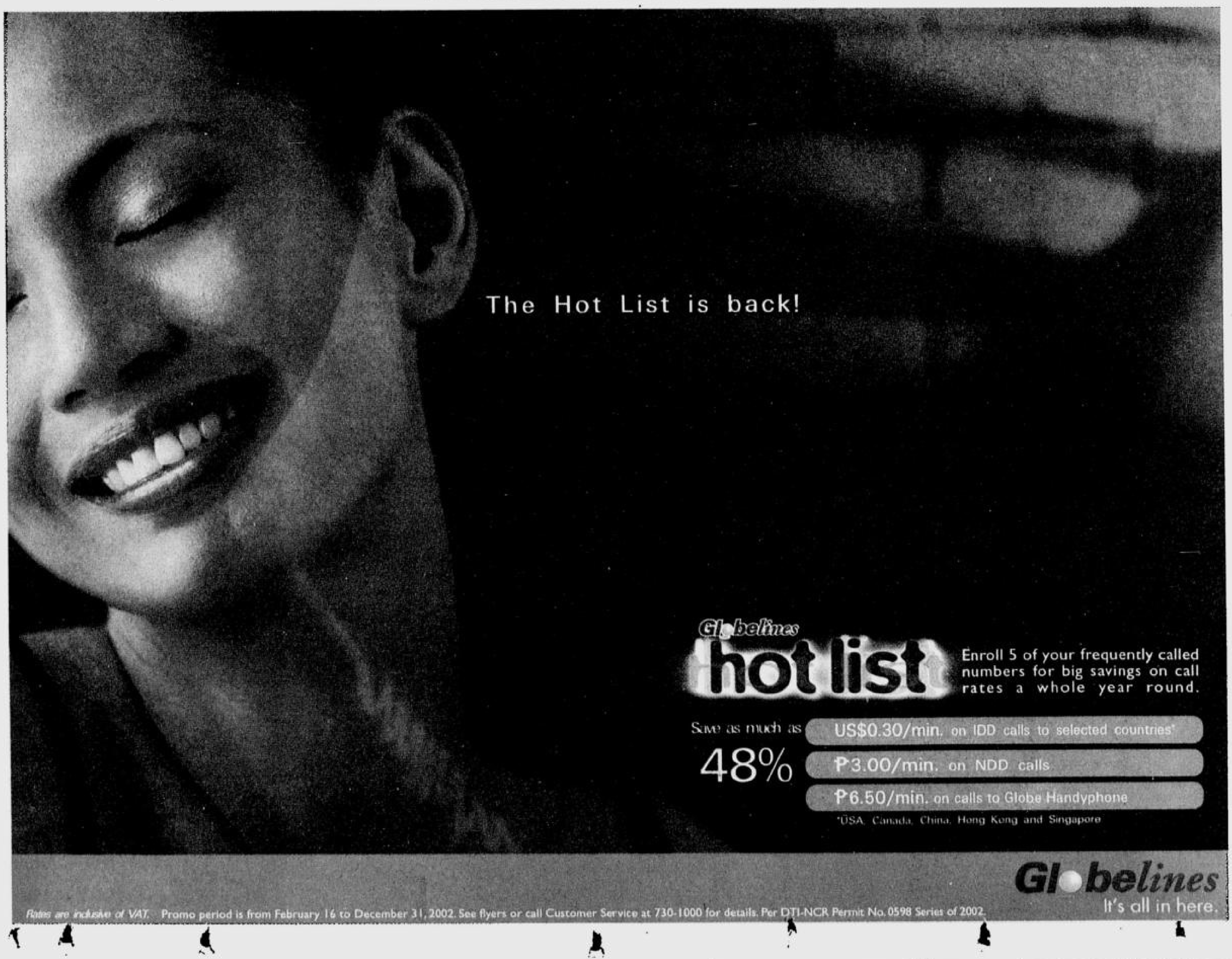
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BADJAOS used to marry at a very young age.

Badjaos earn their place in Philippine society

By Linda B. Bolido
Contributor

RIDICULED, marginalized—even ostracized—the Badjaos got by in the past with very little interaction with other Filipinos, including indigenous groups like them.

Although romanticized as the Philippines' nomads of the sea or sea gypsies, the Badjaos actually received the least attention among the three indigenous communities in Sulu where, with about 10,000 families, they comprised the smallest section of the population and were lowest in terms of socio-economic development. Not treated as equals by other members of the community, they were exploited and harassed, despised as dirty and primitive.

Traditionally, the Badjaos lived in houseboats, traveling in search of food or to escape perceived threats. Over the years, their wanderlust has cooled and they have become less nomadic, settling along coastal areas, on coral reefs and sandbars.

But putting down roots has not freed the Badjaos from extreme poverty and social alienation. Relying primarily on traditional methods of fishing for their livelihood, their income of P1,000-2,000 a month hardly guarantees three square meals a day. A basic necessity like drinking water is a luxury, bought at P20 per 20-liter container. Seawater is used for everything else like washing, cleaning and bathing. Not surprisingly, they suffer from various health, primarily nutritional, and hygiene problems.

WOMEN now know basic health care.

Until a few years ago, almost all Badjaos were illiterate. Formal education was not a traditional part of their way of life. Poverty and a curriculum not culturally suited to them made schooling an alien concept. Besides, in the public schools they were often bullied by Tausug classmates and completely ignored or openly despised by teachers.

Badjao children also had to help earn a living as soon as they could and married at an early age.

Sanyang has helped earn for the nomadic people tolerance, respect and compassion

FORMAL education is not a traditional part of the Badjao way of life.

Heart of the project

In 1989, the Notre Dame of Jolo College-Community Extension Service (NDJC-CES) initiated the Multisectoral Area-based Badjao Community Development Program (MSABBDCP), the first deliberate and organized effort to help ease the group's deprivation. At the heart of the project was the Badjao Youth Development Program (BYDP), which aimed to give children opportunities to live and grow like other Filipino kids.

With four major components—community organizing, education, health and nutrition, and livelihood—the program wanted to make the Badjao self-reliant and socially accepted, improve their quality of life and give them access to basic social services.

The Badjaos were organized and trained to be able to participate in program planning, implementation and monitoring. The program would become the Badjao People's Organization and, much later, the Sanyang Multipurpose Cooperative, which received last year the first ever Consuelo Award, a prize set up to honor outstanding accomplishments by a non-government organization (NGO).

With the coop, the Badjaos addressed pressing economic needs by starting the process of capital buildup and providing a credit facility for income-generating activities. Skills training on food processing, seaweed farming, new fishing technologies, sewing and others were conducted to give them additional income. Technical and marketing assistance was given.

Culture-sensitive

Instead of the children going to school, the school came to them. The Notre Dame program hired and initially paid teachers trained to handle classes for children from cultural communities. The basic curriculum of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports was still used but adapted to make it more culture-sensitive and meaningful to the Badjaos. Teachers used as education tools objects found in the child's environment. They incorporated

BADJAOS/ p.C7

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PLACE

Her ex-boyfriend bad-mouths her after she chose to keep their child

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I'm 23 years old and a single parent. When my boyfriend learned I was pregnant, he pressured me to take abortion drugs but I refused. I told him I'd keep my baby and we would not ask for his support. He left me there and then. After a few months, I heard he married his former girlfriend.

Up to now, though, he wouldn't give me peace of mind. He spreads rumors that he is not the father of my child, and that I am obsessed with him. There are times when I think of getting back at him, but I also fear that would only make matters worse. Still, how can I make him stop hurting me? And what should I tell my daughter when she starts asking about her father?

JOYCE

He probably thought you and the baby would find life unbearably hard and you would regret not following his wish to abort the child. Now, however, you've shown that you and the baby could prosper without him. More than that, you've shown everyone you can be responsible for your action and he can't. In this story's cast of characters, he is, most assuredly, the villain.

A man with a healthier conscience would have simply kept quiet and gave everyone the option of taking that silence as his admission of guilt. Where conscience should rule, however, it is pride that reigns in your ex-boyfriend. So, since he cannot stand being seen as the villain, he works hard at casting you in a bad light. If he can't be at the top—his logic seems to say—he could at least pull you down to his level.

If you can move to another city, do so. In the meantime, ignore him. Let the facial features he bequeathed your daughter speak of whose child she is. Let your ability to prosper without his support and his inability to leave you in peace speak of who is obsessed with whom.

When your daughter starts asking about her father, tell her the truth: That you parted ways with him because you chose to keep her even if that made him angry. Tell her he could not make the right decision at that time but he might improve someday. Tell her there are many children like her, and being an illegitimate child does not disqualify one from succeeding. Assure her that even if you're a single parent, you can love her and take care of her.

UNBELIEVABLE SPORTSNEWS

Efren 'Bata' 'Reyes loses match to 90 year-old woman

By Anne Onie Moss

He (Reyes) was missing the cue ball, sending 9s and 8s flying out of the table and hitting some of the spectators...

TOMAS MORATO, Q.C.--Efren "Bata" Reyes scratches the back of his head as he watches his opponent drop the nine-ball right into the corner pocket.

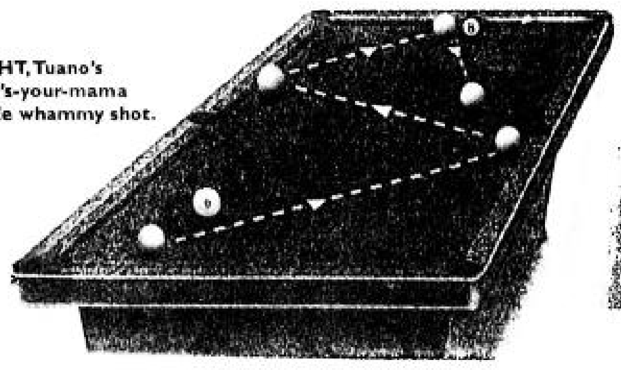
90-year old Millagros Olivia Tuano shocked audiences with her 15-14 victory in the J. J. Jaramillo pool hall ending the 15th National 9-Ball Tournament. At an ambush interview after the match, the stunned Efren "Bata" Reyes could only utter one word: "Unbelievable."

With Reyes opening the day with a 14-0 lead, it seemed that "the Magician" suddenly lost his magic touch. According to spectators, "it was like watching super-man struck by kryptonite, like spider-man struck by...insecticide."

He (Reyes) was missing the cue ball, sending 9s and 8s flying out of the table and hitting some of the spectators who were primarily businessmen from the AB upper C socioeconomic class, mostly married with at least two children, who enjoy sports, movies, video games and going to McDonald's.

TUANO setting up for her next shot (her feet barely touching the ground).

A stunned BATA. Has 'The Magician' lost his magic touch?



RIGHT, Tuano's who's-your-mama triple whammy shot.

graphics by jed rapacon

Reyes' opponent on the other hand was very much alive and kicking, despite being in her golden years.

According to master billiards teacher Regsel Tolentino, "she (Tuano) has a technique I have never seen before. Probably a cross between the crane and the eagle, with variations of her own. Her master has taught her well. Maybe we can join forces and rule the universe together...bwahahaha."

Tuano performed gracefully throughout the match, sprinting back and forth, diving left and right for the ball, her backhand and forehand topspins giving the ballboys a run for their money. However, aside from a couple of rainbow shots, it was her double-pump reverse dunk that sent the crowd roaring.

As she (Tuano, who else?) claimed the table for her 15-game rally to victory, all he (Reyes, duh!) could do was give a gentle smile and scratch his head at an average rate of 5.32 scratches per game.

At another ambush interview by movie director Martin Padilla, when asked about this drastic turn of events, Reyes revealed the real reason for this drastic turn of events (didn't I just write that?).

According to Reyes, " Perhaps it was because I woke up on the wrong side of my bed, perhaps it was because I took a long hot bath before the match, or perhaps it was because I didn't take the game seriously since it was just a photo shoot for a print ad where I was to pretend to have lost the match to a 90-year old woman. Whatever the reason, this whole experience was absolutely, positively, and undoubtedly unbelievable! Can I have my Big Mac now?"

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P49
na lang!
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Chicken McNuggets 6pc.
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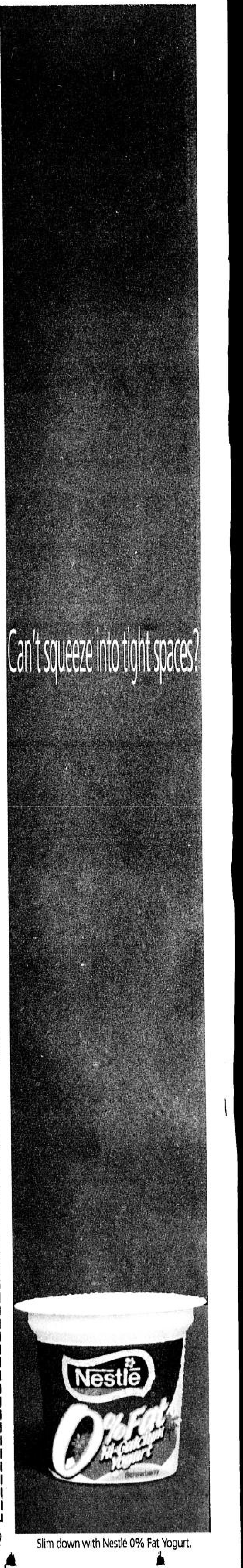
UNBELIEVABLE LOW PRICE

Kita-kits sa McDo.



Slim down with Nestlé 0% Fat Yogurt.

Connecting the youth beyond 'hello'

Nokia embarks on a leadership program to make tribal young people competitive

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

IT makes sense that Nokia—the com-pany that produces the user-friendli-est mobile phones in the world and continues to develop products that are changing the way people reach out to one another—is picking up the tab for projects that benefit the youth.

Any forward-looking enterprise will do well to nurture its future market. In Nokia's case, however, the youth are the future as much as they are the present. Its business thrives on the exuberance of the young. Thankfully, so does its social responsibility. The company has found a way of giving back to young people by investing in programs that aim to improve their minds, if not their lot.

At the 2000 World Expo, a mural created by children greeted visitors right in the first hall of the Finnish pavilion. The drawings depicted everyday life in Finland, from the eyes of babes. As it happens, mobile phones are central to everyday life everywhere, but more so in Finland, which is homebase to Nokia. It was no accident then that the kiddie drawings included Nokia "phone birds."

"We had an art contest—and we've done this in a number of countries—where we asked children to draw what would be the greatest phone they could imagine. And children have such wonderful imagination," said Martin Sandelin, Nokia's senior vice president for corporate marketing, who was in town recently to launch a youth program in the Philippines.

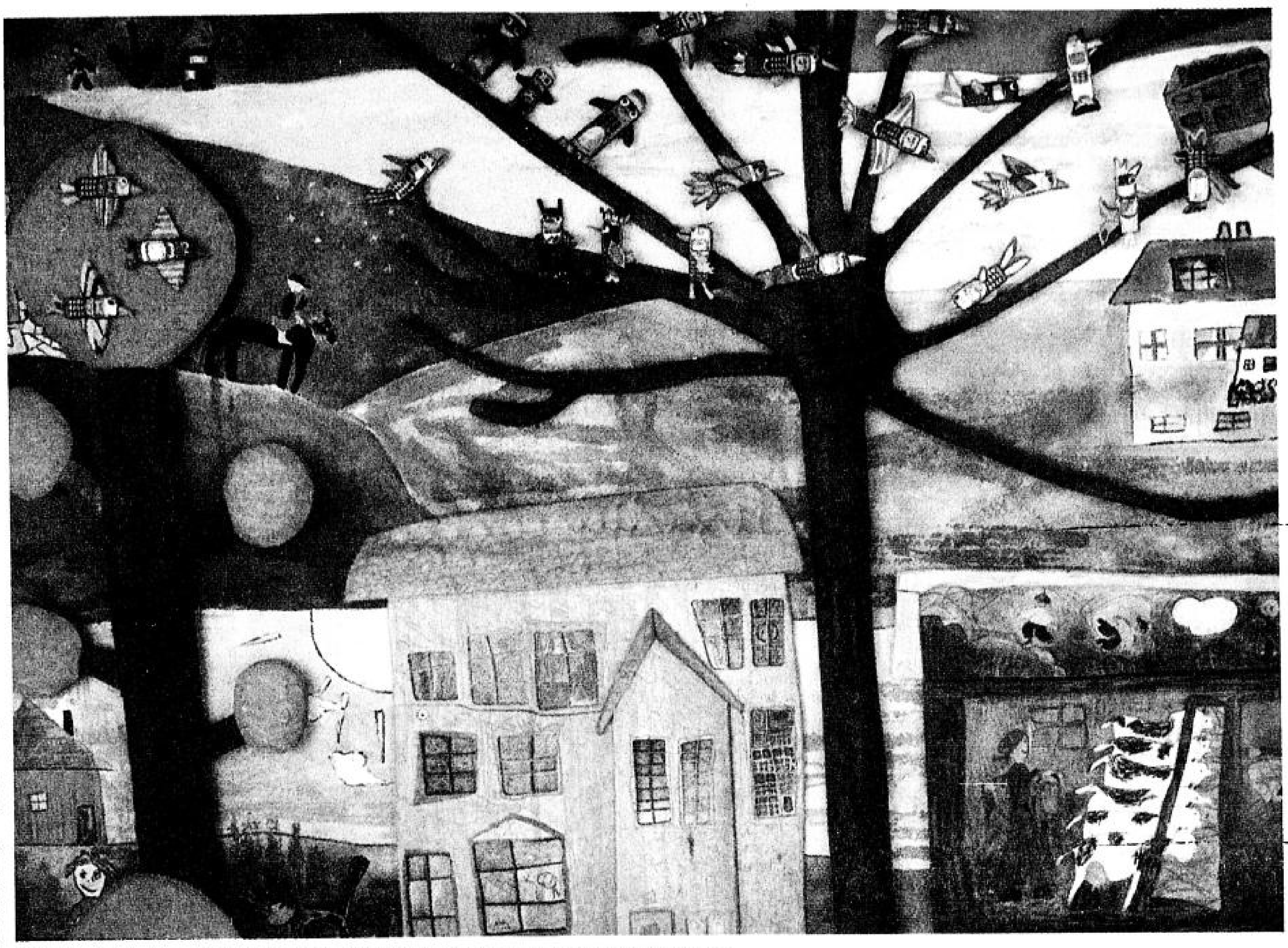
Global undertaking

On a larger scale, Nokia has partnered with the International Youth Foundation (IYF) on a global undertaking focused on young people.

Make a Connection, which is what the joint program is called, relies on country partners for implementation. Its objective is to improve the lives of young people by giving them opportunities to connect with their peers, families, communities and—most important of all—themselves. The means are varied, but all have something to do with better education and giving the youth life skills.

"We started with three countries at the same time, China, South Africa and Brazil, within a week of each other," said Sandelin. The other countries where Nokia has invested in the young are Mexico, Germany, Poland and Korea.

The program does not intend to prepare the young children for technology per se, which one would immediately suspect upon hearing that a



IMAGINE. Nokia phones with wings in artwork by Finnish children displayed at 2000 World Expo

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Connecting the youth beyond 'hello'

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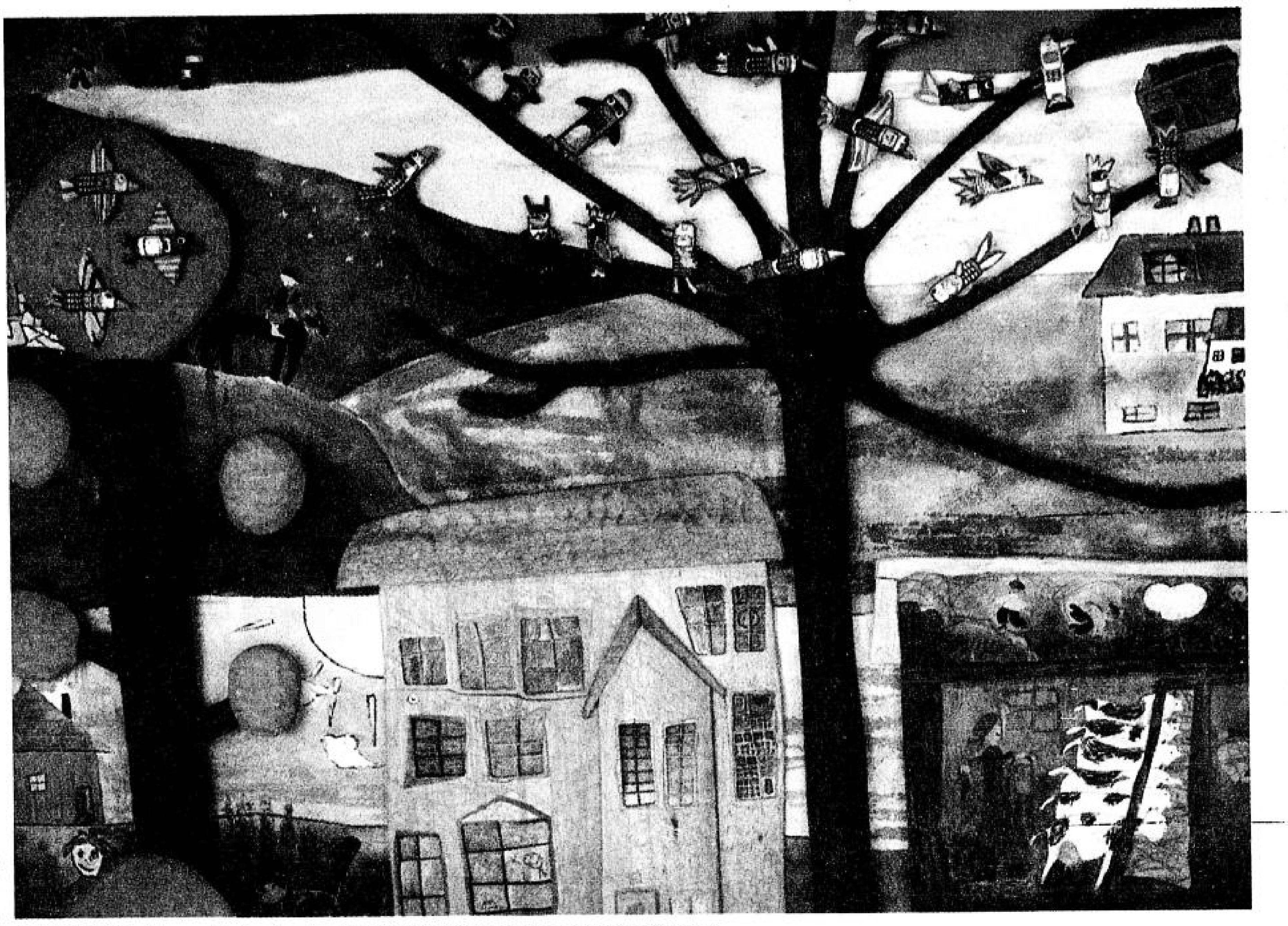

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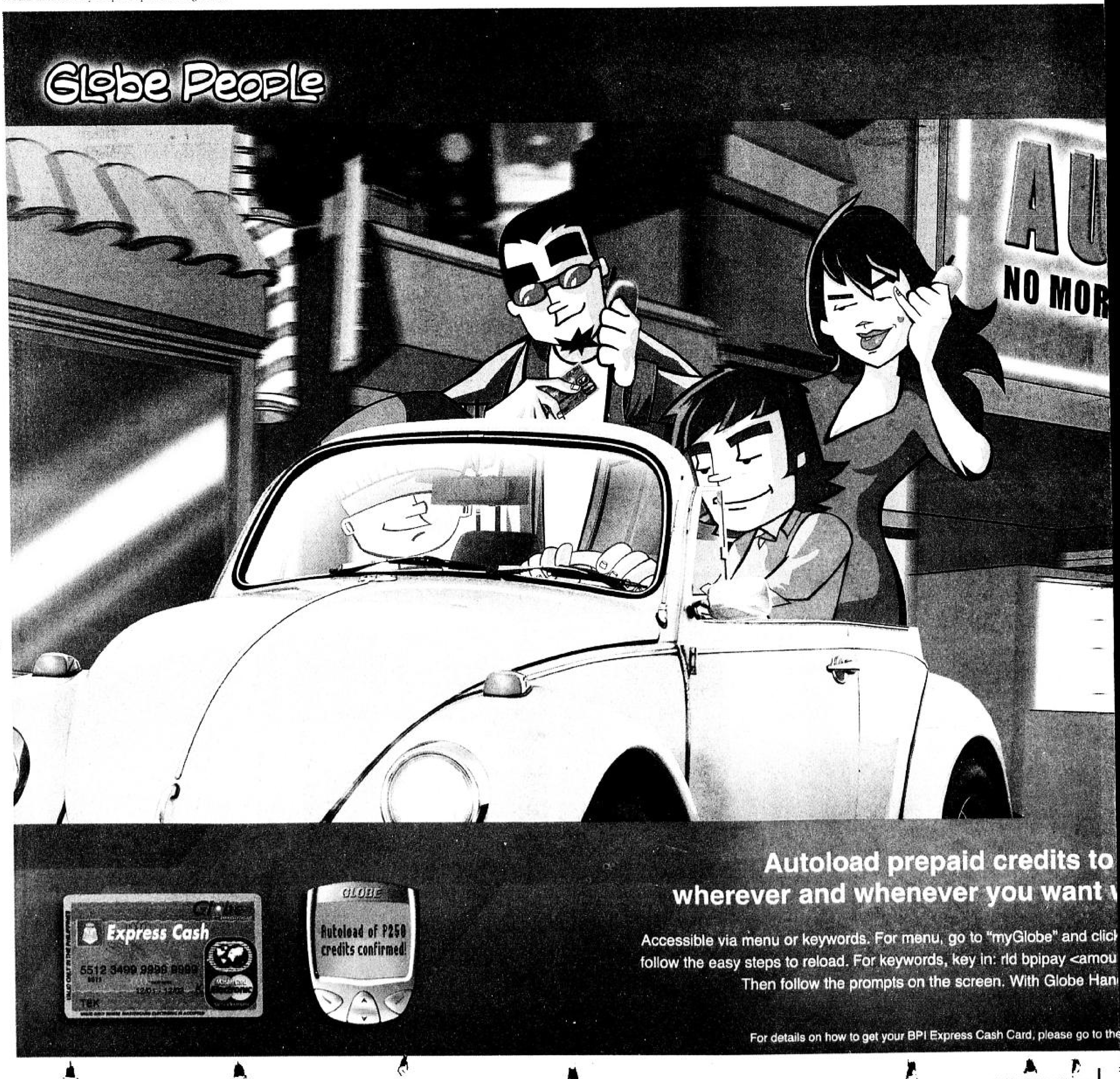

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company like Nokia is involved. "That will be way too limiting," Sandelin explained. "One thing that we do with the local partners is we always stress that the program must sustain the young people for a longer period of time. This is not a short-term educational activity. The intent is to give the young people a preparedness for an ever-changing environment, very fundamental life skills."

Natural extension

Then again, if you have these fundamental life skills, understanding and willingness to use technology would come as a natural extension. Sandelin, however, insists that the program has not been designed with that in mind.

For instance, the Make a Connection project in the Philippines is called the Philippine Indigenous Youth Leadership Training Program (PIYLTP), and among the cultural communities, unfortunately, mobile phones and Internet connections remain an elusive dream. While mainstream society can engage in healthy interaction via technology, the minority groups have been "rendered twice alienated".

Formally launched by Sandelin with Parikshit Bhasin, Nokia's country manager for mobile phones; Claus Karthe, Nokia's country manager for networks; Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala, IYF board member and Ayala Corp. chair and CEO; and Rey Salvosa of the Consuelo Foundation, the PIYLTP relies on Nokia funding and the seasoned social involvement of the Children and Youth Foundation of the Philippines (CYFP) for direction and implementation.

"We have a number of minority groups throughout the country and what's interesting about this program, which certainly is a credit to both Nokia and CYFP, is using their own cultural identity and the leadership within their own culture as a means of educating the youth there and not imposing the traditional educational system and leadership challenges of the rest of society," noted Zobel.

Left out

In the Philippines, where funding is hard to come by, indigenous NGOs rarely get a slice of the pie because Manila-based NGOs get to the buffet table faster. Out of sight, out of mind applies to the way donations are given out. "Given the kind of resources that Nokia is providing us now through this particular group, I can't even begin to imagine what these young people will be capable of 12 months, two years, from now," said Salvosa.

The 110 indigenous tribes in the country camping out in 65 provinces have a population of 11.6 million. Of these, around 20 percent or 2.3 million are 15-24 years old. What is worrisome is that around 70 percent of tribal youth are either elementary or high school dropouts or, worse, have never had formal education.

"One of the things that we did was to design the program along with the people in the community," said Felicitas Rixhon, CYFP executive director. "We took care of doing the research to find out what the leadership practices were in that area because what we had to do was to find out from the older leaders how they were able to influence the area. What we found out were incorporated in the curriculum which we would use. We really took great pains in designing a project that would consider the identity of the indigenous young people."

MARTIN Sandelin, Nokia SVP for corporate marketing

The PIYLTP will also have programs in Sulu and in San Luis, Agusan del Sur, and other areas where indigenous young people's lives are disrupted by war or poverty. As much as the PIYLTP wants to preserve their cultural heritage—and part of the program is designed to help them retain that—tribal youths must also be prepared for their eventual foray into the world.

"It's something that we've wrestled with because there will always be situations where you'll encounter indigenous cultural practices that are not acceptable by any other standard," said Zobel.

Many of the indigenous youth are not going to stay where they've been born and whether that's good or bad is not what worries the Nokia-CYFP program. The bigger question is, do they have the life skills necessary to survive in the bigger world in the future? "We want to be able to train them to become competitive," added Zobel.

"What is important here as well is that a youth leadership training program will have a much broader effect in the communities where these young people live," said Sandelin.

PIYLTP LAUNCHING. Nokia's Claus Karthe, Parikshit Bhasin and Sandelin, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and Rey Salvosa

What does a giant corporation like Nokia care if Badjao teens are connected to the greater Filipino community? Or whether they acquire competitive skills? Or whether their quality of life is improved?

Well, as Sandelin would put it, it's part of the company's history to be actively involved in communities. But what happened with the Make a Connection program was that Nokia gave its social involvement a structured frame, a common philosophy, a focus in terms of what these programs were addressing and what kind of objectives.

It is a universal concern, after all, whether the young people of the world have life skills.

"In most countries, they have academic programs and children go to school," said Sandelin. "But they are taught academic skills and not life skills."

Sharing and learning

Launching the youth programs has allowed Nokia to share and learn from experiences in country to country. "Together with the international youth foundations we have also initiated a best-practices applications area," said Sandelin. "There is now a common thread in these programs. Something that has worked really well is adapted in another community or program."

There is no active exchange directly among the kids, not yet anyway. Sandelin said this was one of the ideas that came up in their meetings with local country partners. To start off, the IYF has established a website, so the Internet could be one very effective tool to keep the young in touch with one another.

The Make a Connection youth programs so far have been launched only in countries where Nokia has set up offices. "We're only 18 months into this, and we now have programs in eight countries, which is very fast. We have been able to do it in such a short period of time because we have had the involvement of Nokia employees," noted Sandelin.

Nokia employees go as far as one-on-one mentoring on specific youth projects and monitoring. Now, that's definitely a good model of corporate citizenship because it goes beyond just writing a check.

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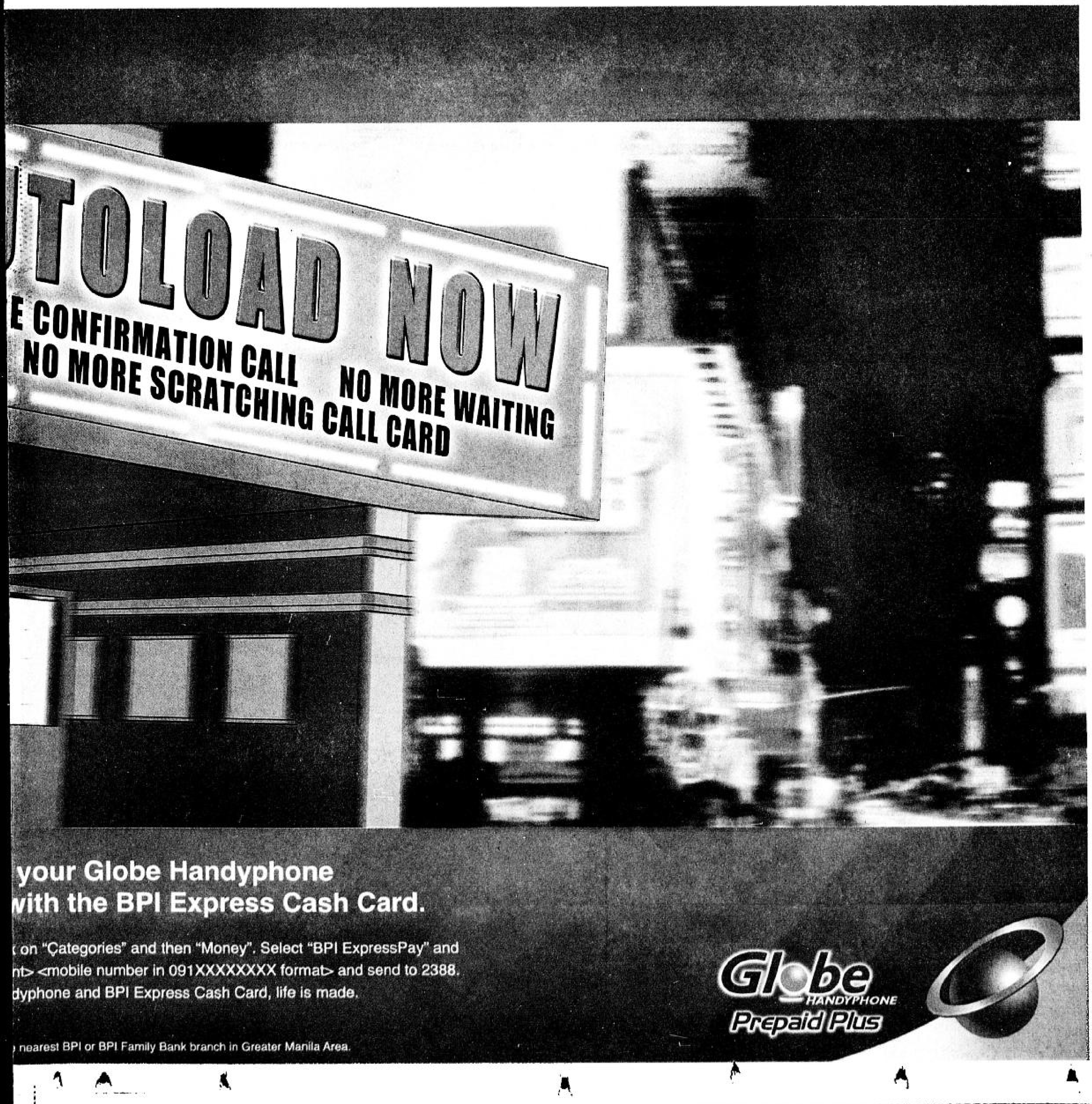

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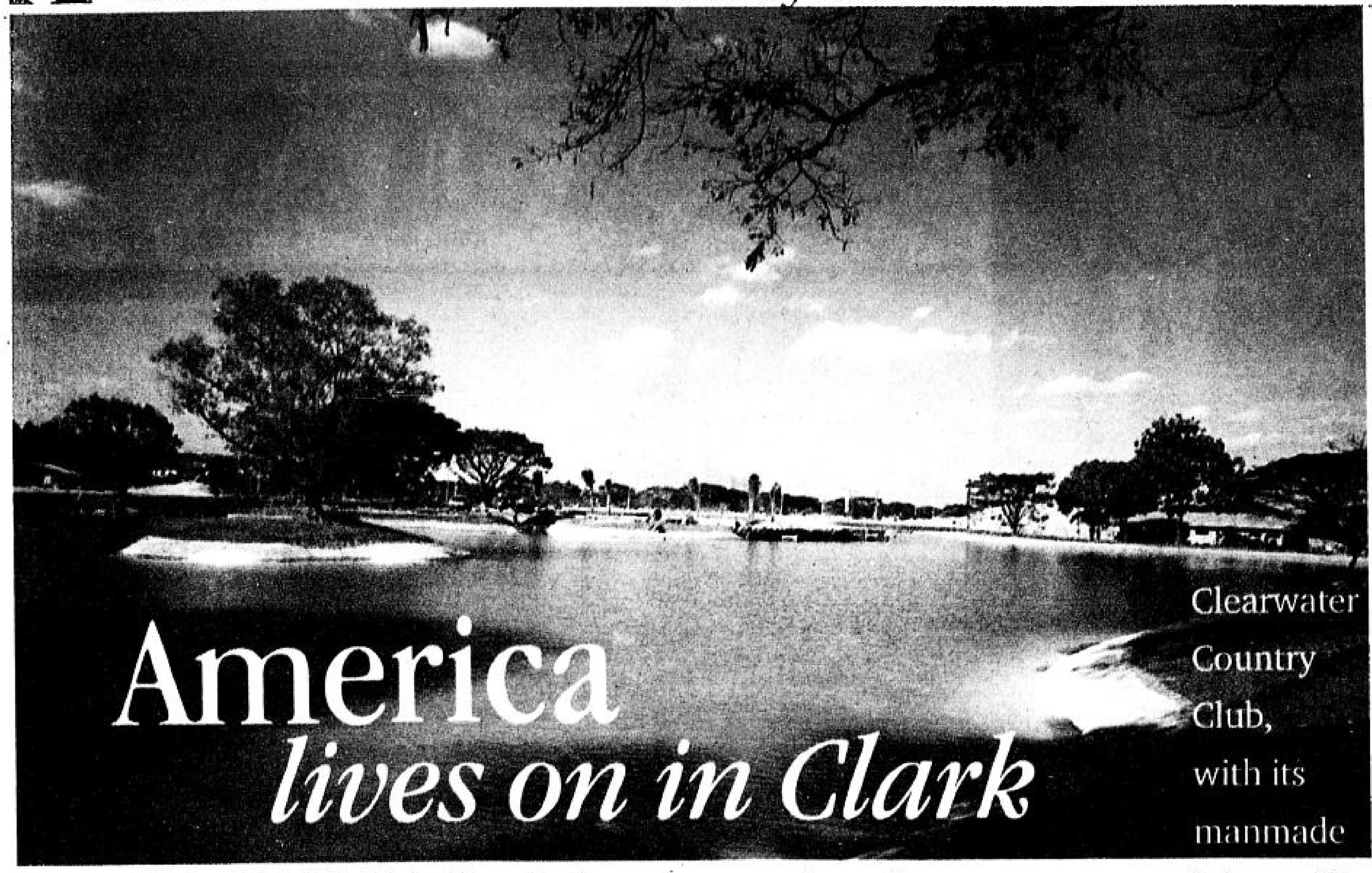
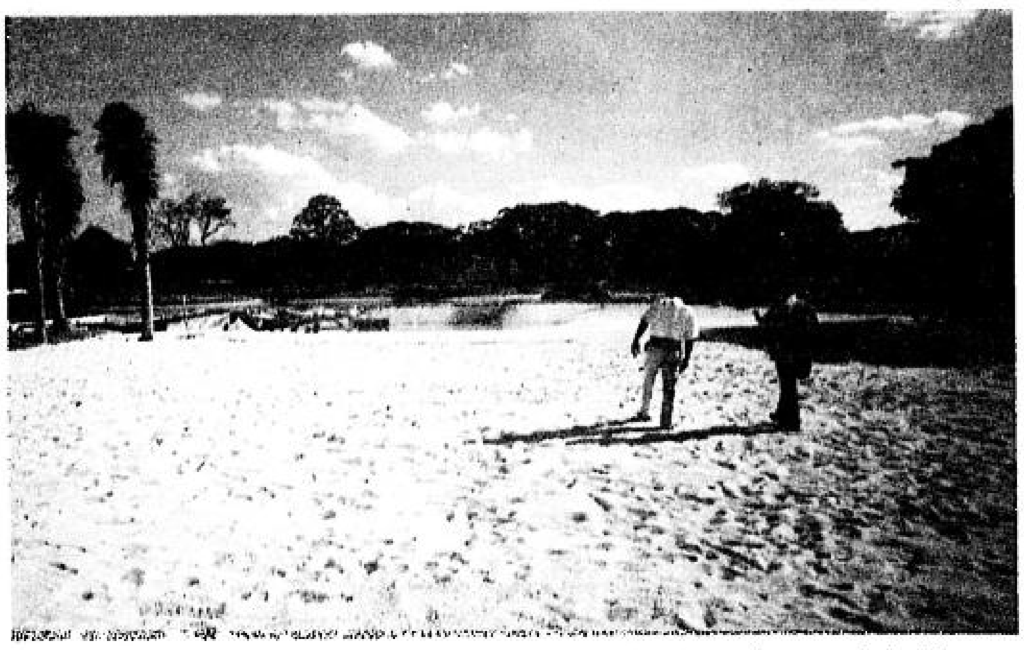
America *lives on in Clark*

Clearwater Country Club, with its manmade lakes, will provide members a feel of the North American lifestyle



WATERING HOLE. Part of the half-filled lake for fishing and boating



NOT FROM PINATUBO. Golden sand has been shipped and now line one of the lakes.

From page C1

"Nothing went to waste," says Madamba. "We used excavated soil, for instance, to landscape the place and make it more interesting."

Water attractions are complemented by such outdoor amenities as shower and locker rooms, boardwalks, jogging and biking trails, picnic groves and shaded walkways. A strip of sand, for instance, is ideal for beach volleyball. Space has also been allotted for tennis and badminton courts. Centuries-old acacia trees, those that were spared in the construction of the lakes, dot the entire property. A spa will be built overlooking one of the lakes.

Members and their families who wish to stay a day or two longer will have several options. The Family Cove, for instance, will be lined with two-bedroom villas inspired by log cabins, and with second-floor balconies that jut toward the lake. Dormitory-type lodges will also be available. Of course, life in the great outdoors won't be complete without the option to live in a tent. Never mind if such temporary shelters will be fully furnished with creature comforts as warm beds, area rugs, TV sets, VCRs and, yes, air conditioners. Behind every unit, concealed from the rest of the world, will be a portable sink and toilet.

"The air-conditioned tents came quite by accident," says Madamba with a chuckle. "We broached the idea of camping, and the women responded favorably except for one thing: They don't want the hassles that go with it." Since one of Clearwater's objectives is to promote family activities, it came up with the idea of hotel rooms disguised as tents. Guests can also pitch their own tents sans the five-star amenities.

IKE Madamba, assistant CEO of Clearwater Country Club

They, especially kids and teenagers, also have the option of spending the night in tree houses and teepees. The latter can accommodate up to 15 people.

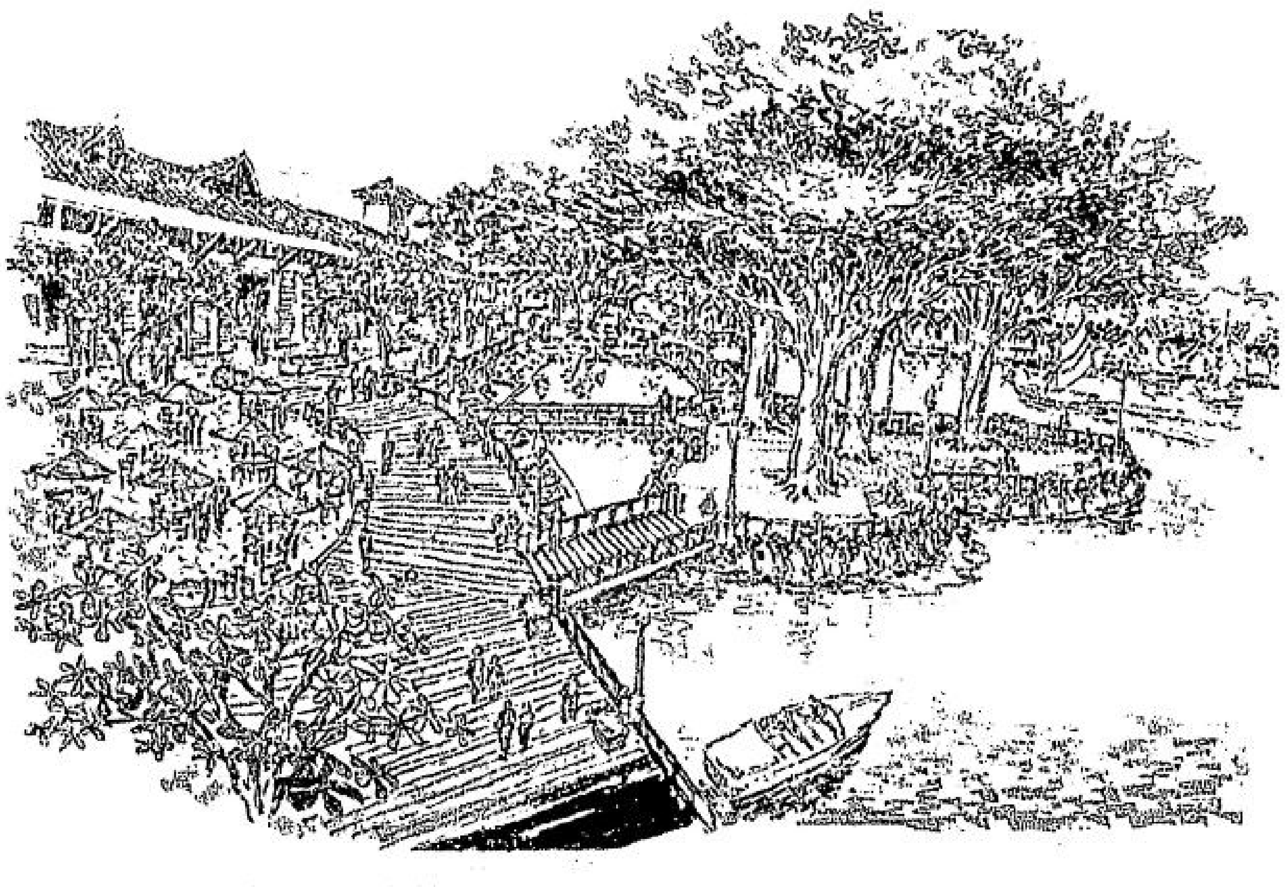
The resort's food will be decidedly American. Yes, all the steak, French fries, chocolate sundaes and pancakes you can eat! Aside from the clubhouse (which is designed to look like a boathouse), developers have lined up several dining options such as the Camp Kitchen and Watchtower. The former will serve comfort food in big portions, while the latter, which comes with a viewing deck for late-night parties, will be a bar and grill aimed at younger guests.

"We [will] cater to people with large families or those looking for secure, accessible and wholesome alternatives," says Madamba. "After all, there's more to life than spending the entire weekend at the mall. Clearwater is the first of its kind in the country. It's an option not available anywhere else." Except in the heart of America.

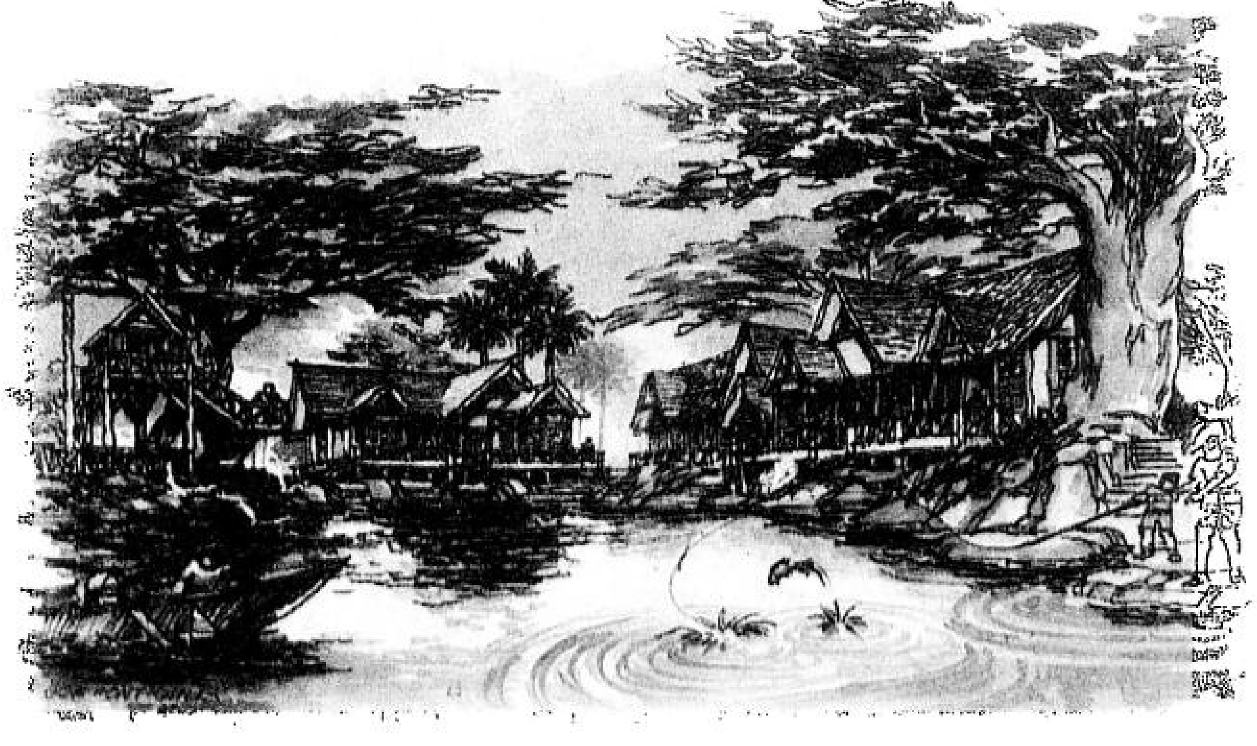
Call Clearwater at (045) 599-5949 in Pampanga, and 844-5795 in Manila

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

A HOTEL room disguised as a tent.



ARTIST'S rendition of the Boardwalk...



AND clusters of villas and a treehouse

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ruth's husband
5 Approximately
9 Analyze a sentence
14 Postal abbr.
17 Tennis pro Nastase
18 Sri —
20 Humpback's home
21 Geometric figure
22 President who was a male model
24 Electrical inventor
25 Shortly
26 European capital
27 Part of Indonesia
29 Flat hat
30 It's good in a pinch
31 Adequate
34 "Picnic" playwright
37 '68 Tom Jones hit
39 President whose first language wasn't English
45 Alight
46 Out — limb
47 Debut recording
48 Shake — (hurry)
50 Trunk
53 Black and white delight
56 Petrarch product
59 Cleanse
61 Musical sensitivity
62 Inventor Whitney
64 Climb
65 Art deco designer
66 Writer Rand
67 Bug barriers
71 Vein contents
72 TV's "— Search"
73 Actress Scala
74 Couple
75 First president born in a hospital
79 Gasp
80 Business abbr.
81 Crooner Vallee
82 Adjust an ascot
83 Settle a score
85 Super Bowl sound
86 "Mila 18" author
87 Biblical city
89 Aachen article
90 Drillers' org.
91 Conveyed
92 Machine tool
94 Annual award
98 Coniferous tree
100 "Bhagavad —"
102 Aphrodite's son
104 Mellow
105 Comic Carey
107 President born on July 4th
112 Apple variety
115 Smile
116 "Entre —"
117 In the thick of
118 Insert dialogue
120 "Shane" star
123 Binchy's "— Road"
126 Prepare to fly
127 Sheer fear
130 President who was a fighter pilot
134 Jogger's gait
135 Rent
136 Tropical tree
137 Singer Brickell
138 Offense
139 A la King?
140 Soho streetcar
141 "— on Me" ('72 hit)

DOWN
1 Giant
2 Bread spread
3 Pretension
4 Fanatic
5 Word with hat or hand
6 Brit. fliers
7 Social climber
8 Creole veggie
9 Ample abdomen
10 "Stroker —" ('83 film)
11 Take five
12 Tuna concoction
13 Pottery protection
14 President who worked as a lifeguard
15 "— Gay"
16 Fractional amount
19 Improvise
21 Vegas place
23 Valhalla villain
28 Shiba — (Japanese dog)
32 Link letters?
33 Monsieur Montand
35 Prepare the Parmesan
36 Sushi candidate
38 Foam
39 Lave the linoleum
40 Santa —, CA
41 Hightailed it
42 Grandpa McCoy
43 Sarge, e.g.
44 Most recent
49 Elastic band
51 Adage
52 Elaborate
54 Forest beauty
55 Kensington quaff
57 Not any
58 College member
60 Rubbernecked
63 Harm
67 Pasta shape
68 London's location
69 President portrayed in an opera
70 It's on the house
76 Occult
77 — -de-camp
78 Start again
79 Uruguayan currency
81 Running plays
84 Delivery truck
87 Trite
88 Artist Chagall
93 High time?
95 Spoiled
96 Quiche ingredient
97 Poe's "Annabel —"
99 Recognition
101 Zipper part
103 Jack of "Barney Miller"
106 Act like a duck
108 Kilmer or Bisoglio
109 Persona
110 Serenade accompaniment
111 Actress Sanford
112 The Rolling Stones' Charlie
113 Japanese porcelain
114 Blender setting
119 Grumpy guy
121 Obligation
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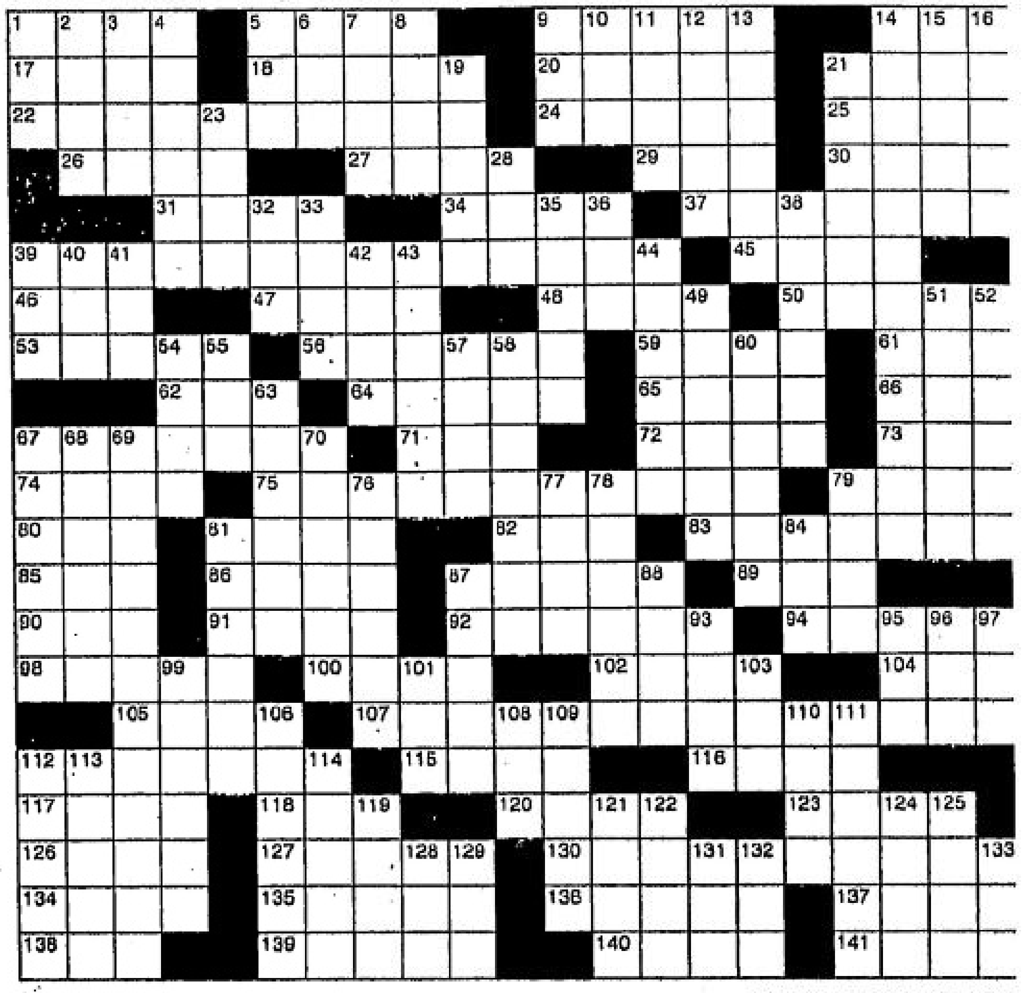
124 Impolite
125 Kuwait's continent
128 "— live and breathe!"
129 Singer Joey
131 Genetic letters
132 Room for improvement?
133 Female fow



ANSWER ON PAGE C7

MORE than 1,000 Badjao children are now enrolled in preschool classes.

Badjaos earn their place in Philippine society

From page C2

Badjao legends, stories, riddles, songs and games in their lesson plans.

Centers, where children had their classes, were also used for adult education sessions, assemblies, medical/dental consultations and other community activities. Badjaos were trained in basic health care. Community potable water supply systems were set up.

By July 2001, Sanyang, which is assisted by the Children and Youth Foundation of the Phils., a subsidiary of the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation, after whose founder the Consuelo Award was named, had a total membership of 532. The total share capital of members was P801,275.18 while savings amounted to P467,803.74, significant figures given the communities' limited earning capacities. Loans granted for various livelihood activities totaled P8,808,707.30, suggesting high repayment rate and good fund management.

The coop, which became fully autonomous in 1997, is now active in 11 Badjao communities in seven municipalities of Sulu, covering about 2,000 families.

From an adult illiteracy rate of almost 100 percent, some 30 percent literacy has now been achieved. The 50 preschool children in one center in 1989 has now grown to 1,700 in 11 centers, with some 65 percent completing the program. Several Badjaos are now in high school and the cultural group's first college graduate teaches in a community preschool.

Change in attitude

As the Badjaos' self-esteem improved, the attitude of other cultural communities toward them also changed. The term *luwaan* (literally vomit) that the Tausugs, the predominant cultural group in Sulu, used to call them, is hardly heard anymore. Sanyang, which received the 1993 Doña Aurora Aragon Quezon Peace Award for Peace through Development, has helped earn for the Badjaos more tolerance, respect and compassion.

At the Consuelo Award ceremonies, prominent businessman and civil society leader Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala encouraged Filipinos to "seek inspiration and strength" from Sanyang and the four organizations given awards of merit for their work in helping rebuild the Philippines.

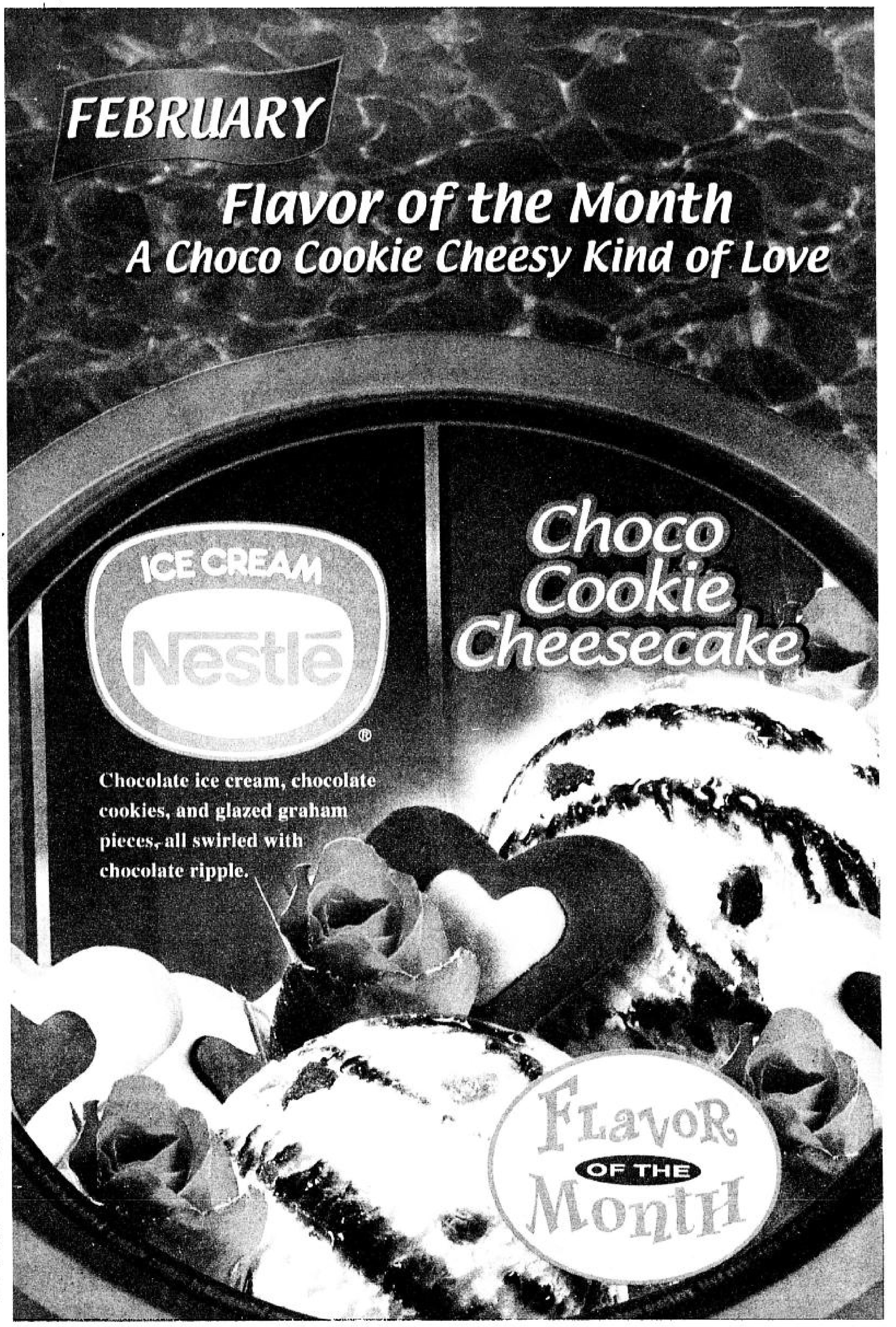
Awardees of merit for exemplifying best NGO practices were the Pangarap Foundation in Pasay City, Families and Children for Empowerment and Development in Manila, CRIBS (Create Responsive Infants by Sharing) in Marikina City and Shontoug Foundation in Baguio City.

Zobel, president and CEO of Ayala Corp. and grandnephew of Zobel-Alger, said of the outstanding NGOs, "Amid the bleak landscape of poverty and injustice, they touch the lives of those who live at the margins of our society and create positive transformation." He said the NGOs were commendable for achieving so much with so little, underscoring the Filipino people's creativity and virtue.

Zobel expressed the hope that the new award "would fortify their (NGOs) commitment to strive for the highest standards of service to others." The Consuelo Awards program was launched in 2001 to recognize outstanding Filipino NGOs that help transform the lives of disadvantaged Filipino children, women and families.

Patti J. Lyons, president and CEO of Consuelo Foundation, expressed hope that the awards program would "not only perpetuate the memory of a loving and generous benefactress but also serve to encourage all NGOs to strive for the highest standards of program delivery."

The Consuelo Award winner was chosen by a four-member panel consisting of Zobel; Bienvenido A. Tan Jr., former ambassador to Germany and former Bureau of Internal Revenue director; Justo A. Ortiz, chair and CEO of Union Bank; and Mary Racelis, director, Institute of Philippine Culture, Ateneo de Manila University and former Ford Foundation country representative.



Chocolate ice cream, chocolate cookies, and glazed graham pieces, all swirled with chocolate ripple.

LIVELIHOOD training has allowed the Badjaos to leave their nomadic life.

BADJAOS are no longer ridiculed and ostracized.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

B	O	A	Z	■	O	R	S	O	■	■	P	A	R	S	E	■	■	R	E	T
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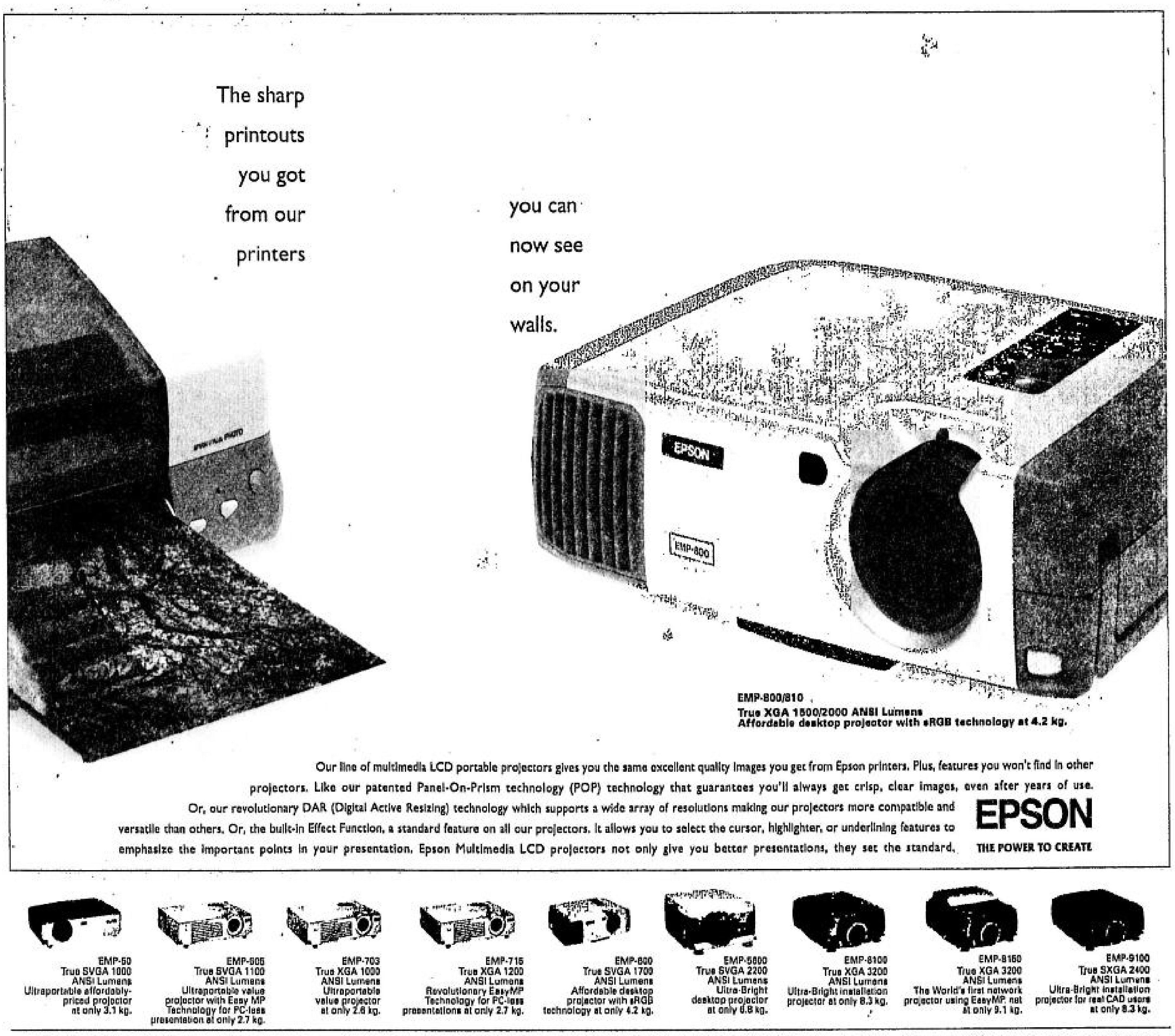

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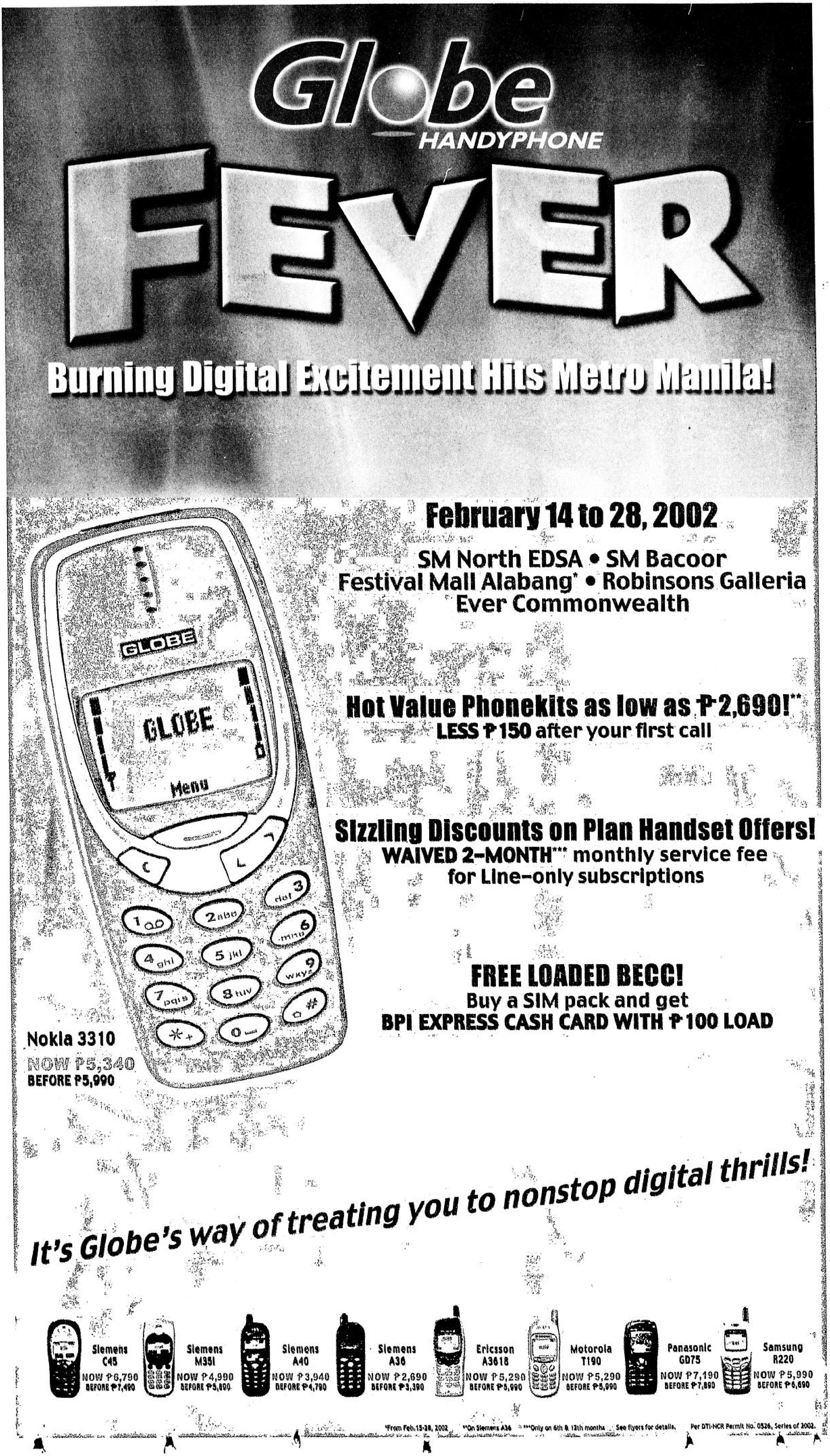

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Weddings & Engagements

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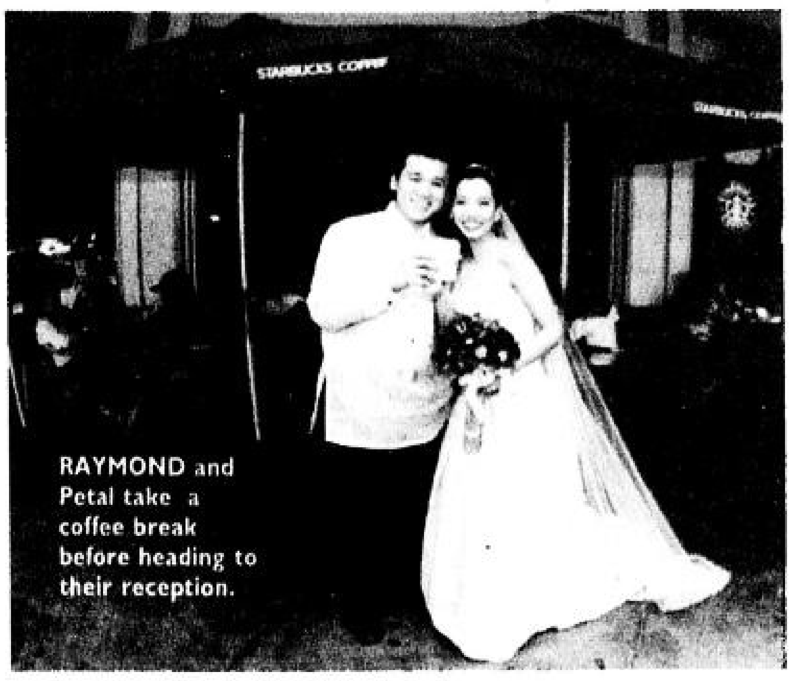
A mug of coffee, a jug of wine and thee



RAYMOND and Petal take a coffee break before heading to their reception.

AFTER SEVEN years of shuffling between Manila and San Francisco, Raymond San Gabriel and Petal Abad finally tied the knot on Dec. 29 at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

The beautiful service was followed by a reception in the Quezon Ballroom of Makati Shangri-La. Friends and relatives from Europe, Asia and America came to Manila for the wedding.

The bride, who walked down the aisle by herself in a classic creation by Carla Guiao, had everyone in tears when she hugged her mother before joining the groom at the altar. Fr. Larry Tan and Fr. Rey Evangelista presided over the ceremonies and imparted words of wisdom to the couple.

Principal sponsors were Jerry Angping, Edgardo Espiritu, Carlos Platon, Angel Bituin, Prisco Cuenca, Boots de Veyra, Sylvia Lorenzana, Lydia Enrile, Luthgarda Platon, Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, Teresita Reyes and Maripi Makalintal.

The wedding entourage consisted of Satin Abad as maid of honor; Isabella Aavatsmark as matron of honor; Cez Abad, Margaret Tirona, Franchette Acosta and Regina Cuenca as bridesmaids; Sheldon Alcudia as best man; Albert San Gabriel, Jay Wambangco, Rian Montano and Guilly Ruiz as groomsmen.

Candle spónsors were Randy San Gabriel

A MUG/ p.D4

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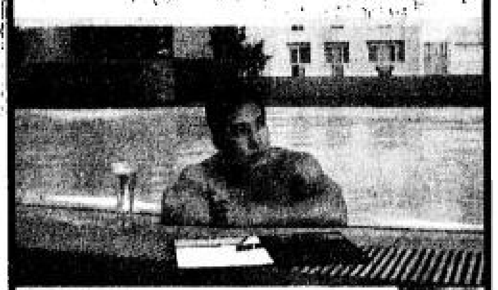

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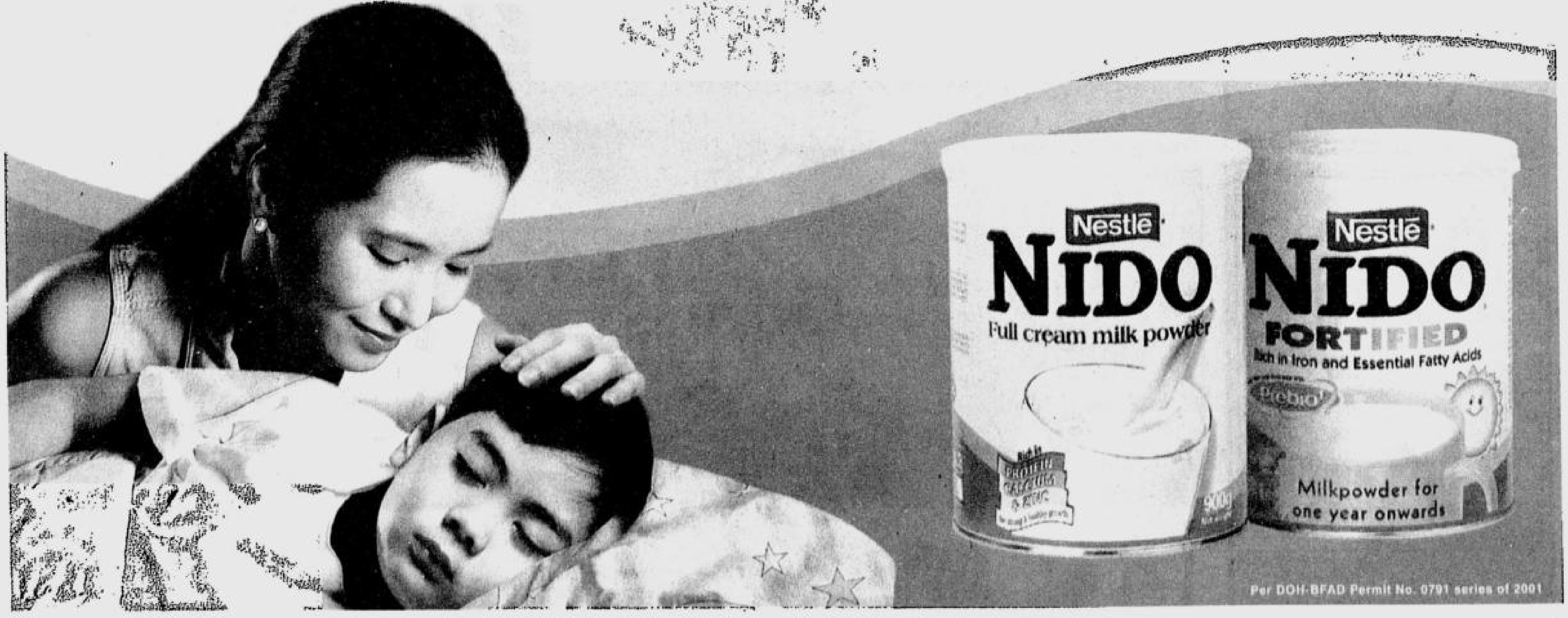
Jean Daquilos - Ilang Tibungco, Davao City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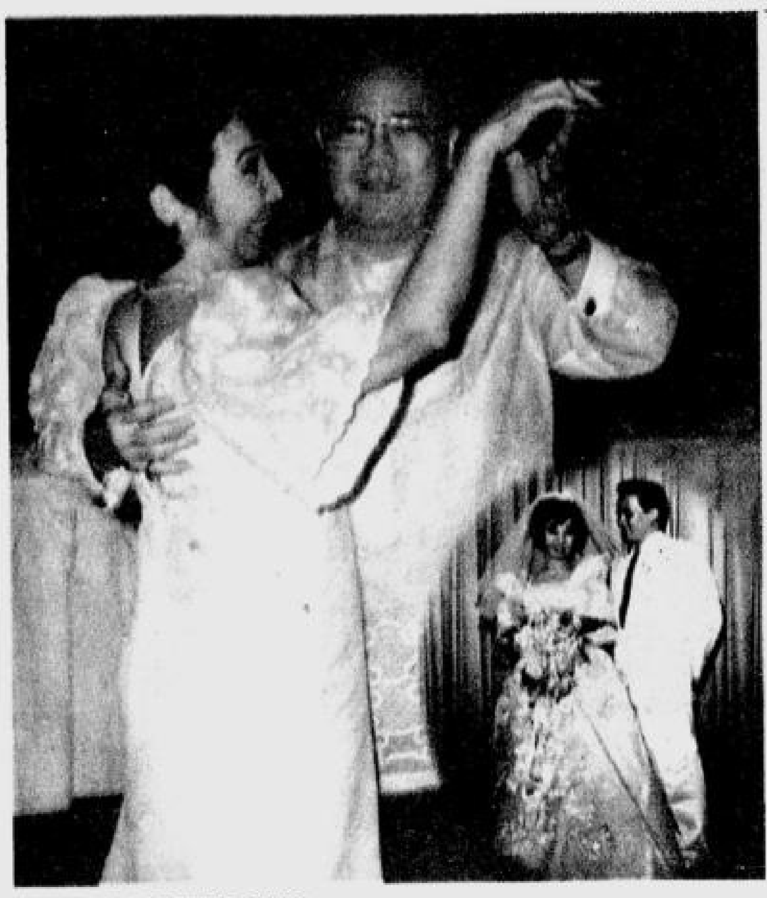
Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding at the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*



QUIMPO ANNIVERSARY

Albert and **Isabel Quimpo** celebrate 40 years of marriage today.

The couple will attend Mass at San Agustin Church where they were married then visit Fr. **Gregorio Liquete**, the priest who officiated at the ceremonies and who is now living in the church dormitories.

Bert is a commissioner of the National Labor Relations Commission while Bel teaches science at the La Salle Greenhills.

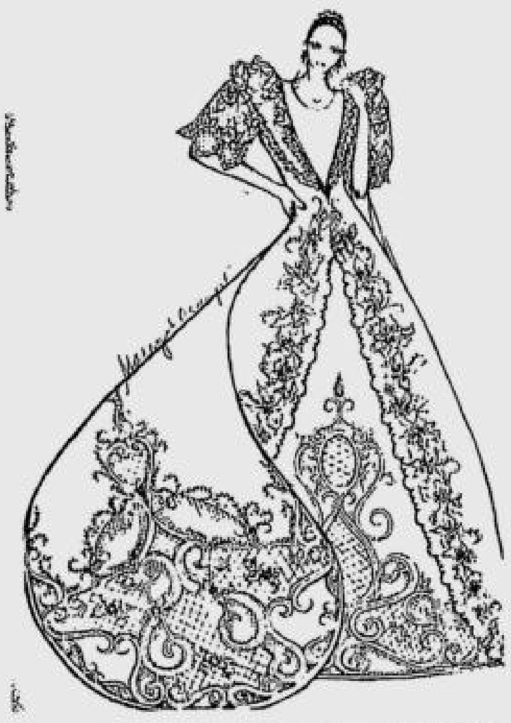
The Quimpos will have a simple celebration at Aristocrat in Manila where they had their reception in 1962. Joining them in the celebration are children **Joey** and **Liz**, **Margie** and **Chet**, **Jill** and **Allen**, and grandchildren **Mark**, **Patricia**, **Catherine**, **Nicholas** and **Mikka**.

Eldest child **Tito**, who is with the United States Navy, is currently posted in Italy with his family.

Bert is from Kalibo, Aklan, while Bel, the former Isabel Gustilo, is from Zarraga, Iloilo.

REYES-SAULOG

Christian C. Reyes, son of Mr. and Ms **Richard Reyes**, wed **Melodia Saulog**, daughter of Mr. and Ms **Nelson Saulog**, on Dec. 27, 2001 at the Christ the King Church, Green Meadows, QC. The bride wore a *piña* gown in full *callado* and embellished with seed pearls and glass beads. Designed by **Fred Quimat**, it had a detachable train.

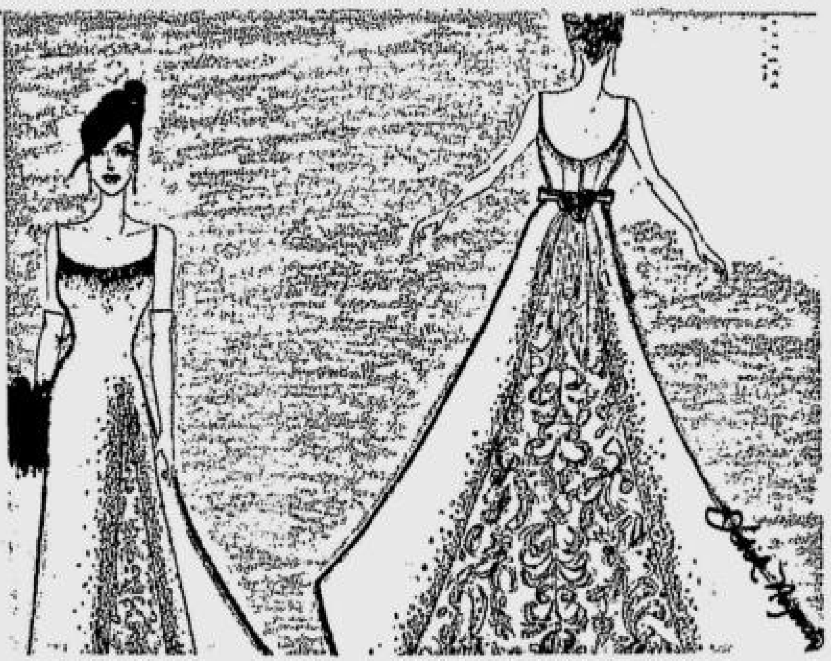


OCAMPO ANNIVERSARY

Cresencio and **Soledad Dizon Ocampo** of Angeles City will renew their vows to celebrate 45 years of marriage, on Feb. 23 at the Sacred Heart Parish Church, San Fernando City, Pampanga. She will wear a modern Maria Clara-inspired gown in embroidered *piña* with handpainting by **Manny Dizon Ocampo**.

ROMERO-BAUTISTA

Ann Catherin Bautista will wed **Ericson Romero** on March 9 at the Sta. Clara de Monte Valco Church, Taft Avenue, Manila. Reception will follow at Dreamhouse Restaurant.



CRUZ-EUGENIO

Rina Eugenio wore an off-white bustier cut gown with spaghetti straps when she married **Louie Cruz.** The gown had lace insertions on the side made of fully beaded lace collars embedded on a fully sequinned chiffon material. The ensemble had a detachable train. It was conceptualized by the bride herself, designed by **O'dick Naputo** and executed by the groom's mother, **Marilou Evaristo-Cruz.**

Di lang paganda nang paganda ang buhok, success pa ang kapalaran!

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Hula sa kanila, nagkatotoo na!!
Libu-libo pang mga prizes ang naghihintay! Sali na!

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Eugenio Villarin, Jr.
Iloilo City

Segunda Gesalan
Olongapo City

♔♔♔♔ (3)Winners of Living Room Showcase

Mario Sison
Moncada, Tarlac

Elisa Payawal
Magalang, Pampanga

Cecilia P. Chuidian
Mandaluyong City

☾☾☾☾ (17)Winners of Nokia 5110i Cellphones

Marlon Algaba
Antipolo City

Bernadette Vertucio
Lapu-Lapu City

Amalia Bungay
San Fernando Pampanga

Ramil Alas
Nueva Ecija

Teddy Andrade
Caloocan City

Lorna Sibayan
Isabela

Noris Siron
Tarlac

Julie Santos
Nueva Ecija

Maria Ana Lumabi
Manila

Susano Velasco
Pangasinan

Dan Alberto
Laguna

Ma. Cristina Aquino
Bataan

Joy Aldaba
Valenzuela City

Lord Ben Deza
Pasay City

Venancio Bacus
Davao City

Delia Ordona
Zambales

Alberto Pangatuan
Cebu City

♤♤♤♤ (6)Winners of Kitchen Showcase

Riva L. Aquino
Iloilo

Lucelyn O. Sulaque
Iligan City

Corazon C. Rivera
Nueva Viscaya

Jesus B. Guiruela
Taguig

Michelle Tiglao Lucas
Manila

Yolly C. Yuson
Cabanatuan City

♡♡♡♡ (86)Winners of Sunsilk Watches

Rommel C. Mendoza
Muntinlupa

Emmylou Serdan
Quezon City

Julieta Velasquez
Pasig City

Ghaylord Padre
Bulacan

Lanie de Guzman
Nueva Ecija

Amie Ricafrente
Paranaque

Fernando Orteza
Bulacan

Emilio Sevilla
Bataan

Jeanlyn Ambrocio
Cotabato

Cloduaido Hernandez
Manila

Teresita Zapanta
Rizal

Edwin Salazar
Rizal

Melvin Caragay
Bataan

Nilo Cortel
Zamboanga

Nene Dorado
Zamboanga City

Josephine Ombal
Zamboanga Del Sur

Jofran Barcebal
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Erlinda Dela Cruz
Nueva Ecija

Clarita Asis
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Jose Militar
Davao City

Antonio Cuevas
Paranaque City

Jennifer Salazar
Lipa City

Dulce Galvez
Nueva Ecija

Dulce Aso
Cotabato City

Renato San Diego
Bulacan

Jazel Ensomo
Surigao City

Camila Oray
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Lucina Ardepolla
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Jonalyn Falsario
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Palawan

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Melencio Recide
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Laguna

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Laguna

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Iloilo

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Laguna

Josefina Nuqui
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Renato R. Basinang Jr.
Iloilo

Laura Amores
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Cavite

Lelanie Atienza
Butuan City

Joel Parrenas
Negros Occidental

Armando Enriquez
Zamboanga City

Adolfo Ayaton
Quezon

Fernan Manapsal
Tarlac

Lito de Chavez
Valenzuela

Miriam Mendez
Oriental Mindoro

Pascual Villamasada
Negros Occidental

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Althea Ungco
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Camila Hingpit
Nabunturan

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Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0615, Series of 2001.

THE NEWLYWEDS with their entourage

A mug of coffee, a jug of wine and thee

From page D1

and Sophia Javier, veil sponsors Jon Abad and Jocelyn Young, and cord sponsors Alfred Cabangon and Lara Lorenzana. Ring bearer, coin bearer and bible bearer were Vince San Gabriel, Patrick Ditan and Justin Abad, respectively. Marina San Gabriel, Mandy Platon and Denise Dionisio were flower girls.

Before the reception, Raymond and Petal had a few moments to themselves at Starbucks Café then walked to the hotel to join family and friends. Traffic almost came to a halt as everyone stared at the formally dressed couple who was oblivious to the attention they were getting.

Raymond, a chef, carefully chose the menu. His only sister, Joy San Gabriel-Young, had delightful surprise for the newlyweds—a remarkable cake the couple couldn't see until the day of the reception. Florist Tess Alparas transformed the Quezon Ballroom into a sea of flowers.

As the newlyweds had their first dance, a slide presentation showed pictures of the couple through the years. Toward the end of the evening, friends rolled in the grand piano and everyone gathered around to sing and dance until the wee hours of the morning. Benny Bondoc captured each moment of this fun and emotional day in film.

The couple's shared passion for wine was the theme of the wedding, which had a color motif of deep purple. Guests got beautiful and unique wine souvenirs. Raymond proposed to Petal in Napa Valley the year before. While she was in a hot air balloon floating over the wineries, Raymond had six people in a vineyard below hold a sign that read, in letters big enough for her to read from above, "Petal, will you marry me?"

Not surprisingly, the couple hopes to honeymoon in Italy to visit more wineries.

In their wedding finery, bride and groom had a few moments to themselves at a café then walked to the hotel to join family and friends

WITH THEIR principal sponsors

WITH JON Abad, bride's mom Cecilia Abad, and groom's parents Leonora and Tirso San Gabriel

SINGLE ladies gather around the cake before pulling the favors and charms.

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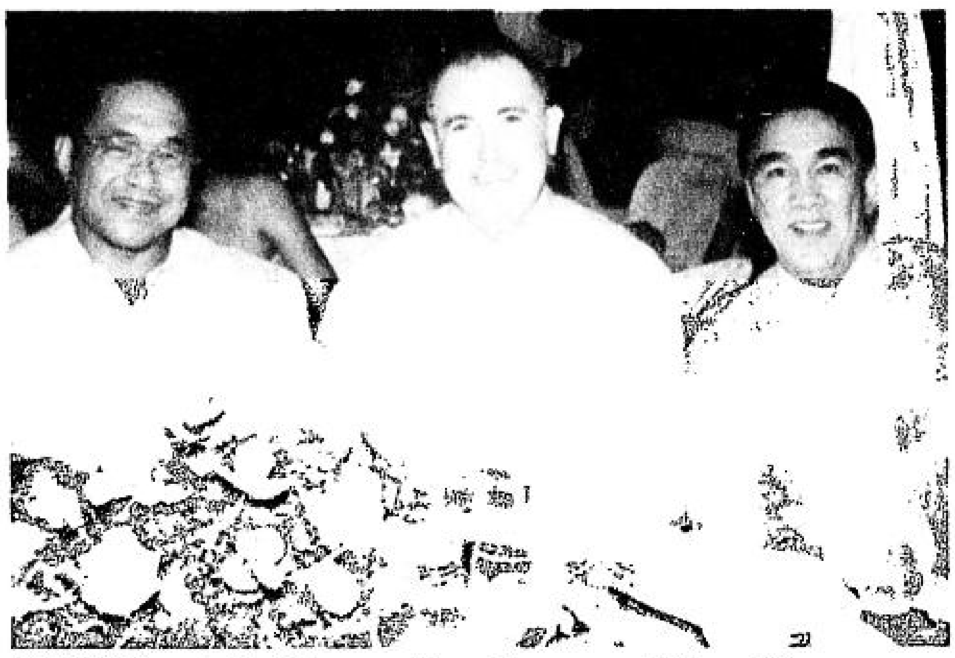
MARISSA Fenton, Kathy Park and Mary Grace Katigbak

Romance is a matter of serendipity

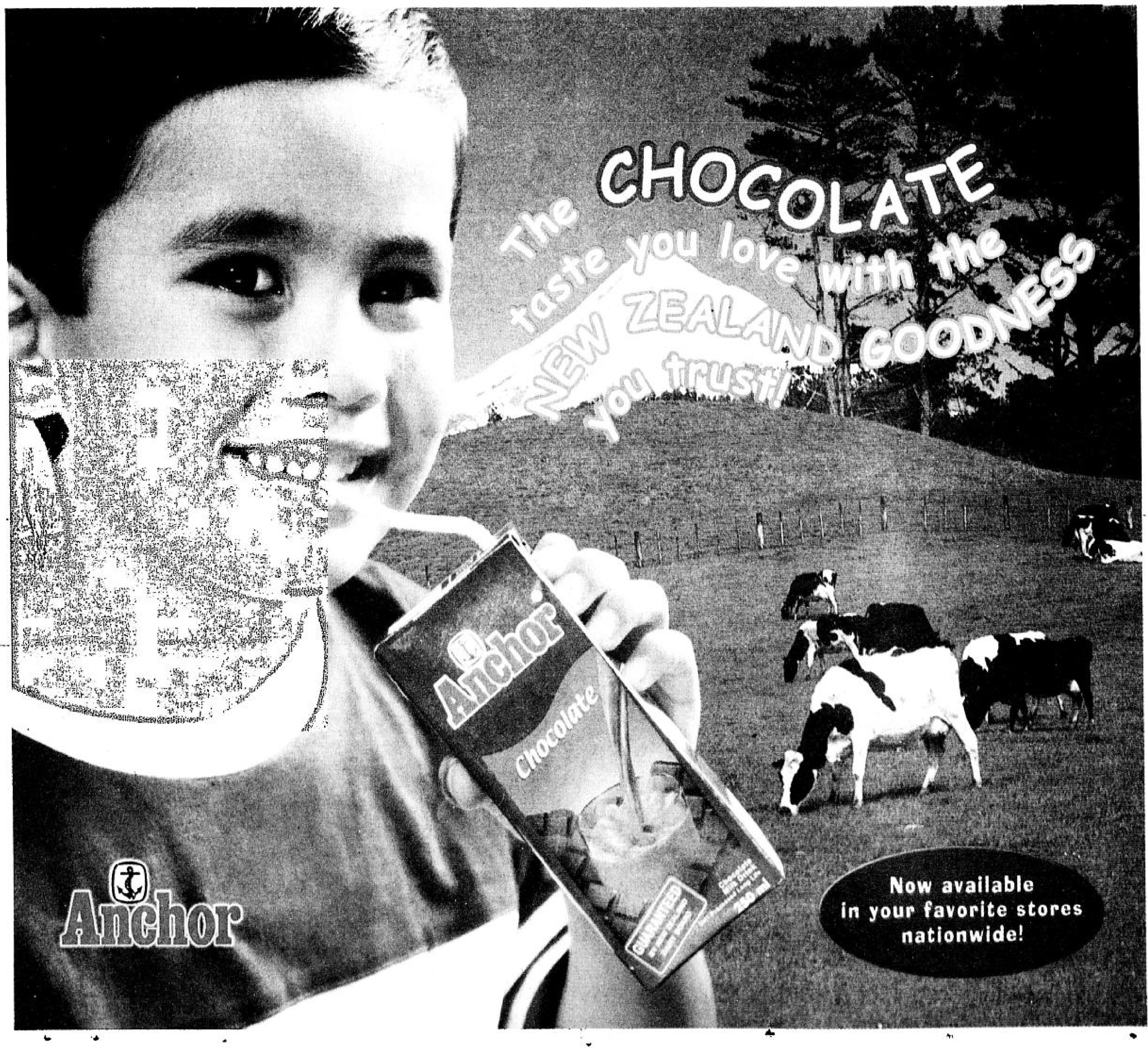
THE BRIDE'S FAMILY. From left, Collie Hoey, Roxanne Hoey, Dr. Gunter Matschuck, the bride, Joanne Matschuck, Antoinette Matschuck, Mattheas Matschuck and John Christian Matschuck (foreground)

From page D8

ANTON plants a tender kiss on the cheek of his pretty bride.



WEDDING guests Fred Parungao, Ramon Zaragoza and Bobong Velez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TRAVEL

Rosario A. Garcellano, Editor

California dreamin'

By Alex Y. Vergara

CALIFORNIA in a day? Why not? If you're having second thoughts about lingering in the United States these days because of threats of more terrorist attacks, you can now do California in a day or two before flying home to the Philippines to face a different, if more fierce, version of reality.

The mother of all theme parks pays tribute to the California experience with its newest and arguably most kitsch attraction. Located just across Disneyland in Anaheim, California, Disney's California Adventure opened almost a year ago and is aimed at boosting that institution's sagging popularity while diverting tourists from the bigger and more diverse attractions offered at Disneyworld in Orlando, Florida.

At 55 acres, California Adventure is smaller and more compact than the 85-acre Disneyland. But trust the masters of weaving stories and dreams not to let this limitation hinder them in any way. Just like its predecessors, this theme park is packed with enough rides (22 and counting), shows, parades and spectacles designed to linger in one's memory and bring out the child in everyone.

> Although smaller than the venerable Disneyland, it has the requisite energy and attitude

EXTRAVAGANT is Eureka, a parade of floats, dancers, musicians and acrobats each paying tribute to the Golden State's diversity and unique rhythms.

California Adventure is as big as and has the same number of rides that Disneyland had when it first opened in 1955, according to the theme park's media fact book. So how is it different from its older, more celebrated neighbor?

It's said to be designed with a high-energy, slightly irreverent "pop-culture" attitude, in keeping with today's Californians. Whatever that means.

You won't miss the place. Just across the esplanade from Disneyland's Main Street railroad station is the new park's Golden Gateway, which looks like a giant picture postcard of Golden State landmarks. In front is the word "CALIFORNIA," spread out and made up of letters 11.5 feet high—large enough for guests to pass through the middle of the "O" or between the "A" and the "L."

The theme park's highlights include a wide range of sunny California icons—a 120-foot-high wonder wheel (OK, Ferris, if you please) churning around a gigantic metal sun face, an eye-catching structure that supports a high-speed roller coaster, a granite mountain peak shaped like the head of a grizzly bear, and a Golden State Bridge inspired, of course, by the real one with Disney monorails speeding across.

This theme park by no means offers a real picture of California. But with the Golden State mired in racial tensions, border problems with Mexico and Gary Condit's indiscretions, no one would probably mind. Rather, California Disney is an amalgam of the best the state has to offer. And this is reflected in the Golden State, Paradise Pier and, of course, Hollywood Pictures Backlot—three areas with a dozen or so rides, attractions and restaurants that try to capture various aspects of the California dream.

Perhaps the only attraction with enough semblance of truth in it is Golden Dreams, a theater showing a 22-minute Whoopi Goldberg starrer with the same title. The comedienne weaves in and out of the story as she narrates the California experience through the eyes of immigrants—Spanish missionaries, Chinese laborers, Japanese "picture brides," Midwest farmers, Mexican farm hands, a European-born moviemaker, and many more travelers from various lands and times seeking the promise of a better life.

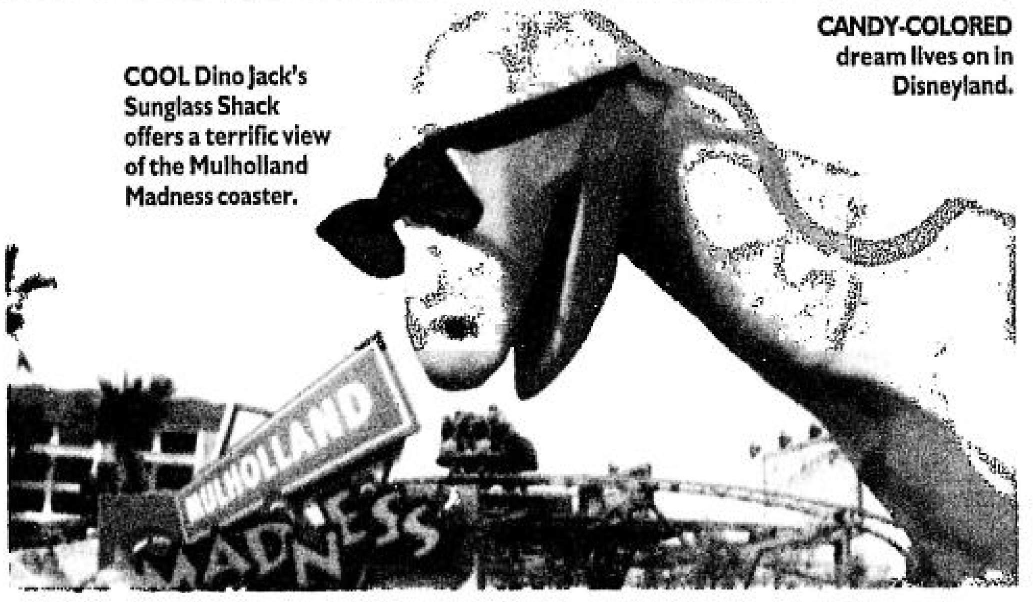
Indeed, in true Hollywood fashion, the film glosses over a great deal of America's past sins. But it does offer a number of touching and—thanks to Goldberg—humorous insights not usually tackled by the dream factory that's Disney.

The time we were there, people were making the most out of the fading summer and long queues were snaking to several top destinations, making it impossible for us to sample everything on the list.

It took us, for instance, more than an hour to hop into one of those rafts for the Grizzly River Run, one of the featured adventures in Golden State. But the long wait was worth it. Thanks to the swirling rapids, we tossed and turned through caverns and mineshafts before finally sliding into a sprouting geyser field. So much for our attempts to keep dry.

In contrast, the lines leading to California Screamin' were shorter, but the 120-foot-high roller coaster did live up to its name as we hurtled from 0 to 55 miles per hour in four seconds flat.

Its appearance is deceiving. This classic "wooden" roller coaster in Paradise Pier is made up of 32,000 steel beams interlaced in geometric patterns that support sudden dips, turns and a thrilling loop-de-loop around the giant silhouette of the world's most famous mouse. (No, silly, not Minnie.)



COOL Dino Jack's Sunglass Shack offers a terrific view of the Mulholland Madness coaster.

CANDY-COLORED dream lives on in Disneyland.

Hollywood, as its name suggests, is lined with entertainment venues offering almost everything from animations, soap operas to musicals with plenty of spunk. The featured presentation at the Hyperion Theater, for instance, revolved around a boy's classic wish to rid himself of his younger brother and earn some respect at home. Yes, a fairy godmother did come to his aid in the person of a fast-talking African-American woman loaded with attitude. How's that for diversity! After a series of songs, dances and quick set changes, the conflict was eventually resolved before the curtains fell, with the boy and his brother living happily ever after.

"Jim Henson's Muppet Vision 3D," with Kermit, Miss Piggy, Gonzo and the rest of the gang in three-dimensional glory, managed to bring in the laughs. The 20-minute romp features such characters as they take viewers into the Muppets' 3D FX Lab. Expect the Muppets to mess up the facility, leaving viewers dodging squirt guns, fireworks and cream pies. But after viewing a much better and more imaginative 3D movie, Kermit and friends pale in comparison.

Bug's Life Theater's "It's Tough to be a Bug" reduced us to stitches before it literally made us jump from our seats. Nope, we're not telling you why, and in what part. Suffice it to say that Flik and Hopper, major protagonists in the Disney movie "A Bug's Life," have again crossed each other's paths.

Hopper resents Flik's idea of inviting people and making them honorary bugs. In between the rib-tickling finale, audiences, wearing 3D "bug" glasses, are treated to various visual, aural and, yes, olfactory sensations—from fluttering butterflies and buzzing bees to rappelling black widow spiders. Thanks to the bumbling antics of an insect (don't ask us why because there happen to be a zillion bugs out there), an over-eager termite that threatened to "terminate" outsiders was foiled by the bumbling antics of another insect. And what did the stinkbug do? It doesn't require an Albert Einstein to figure that one out.

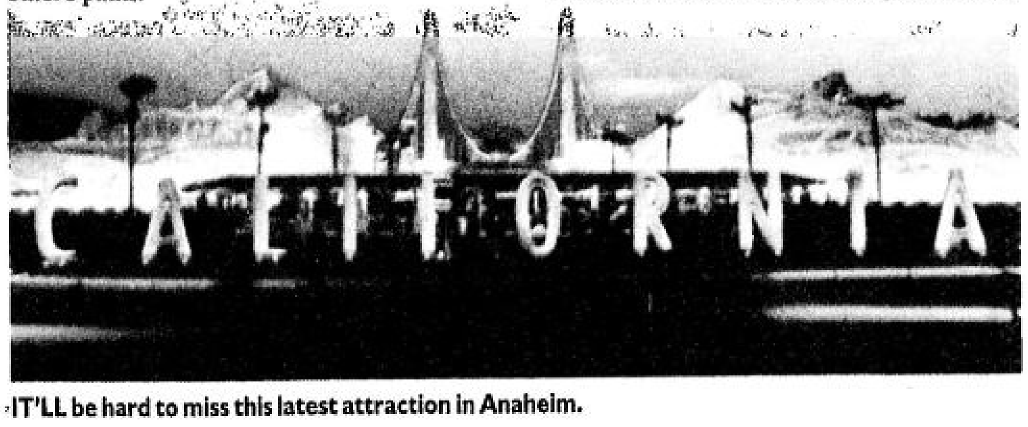
We capped the day Soarin' Over California, a simulated ride unlike any other. This time, patrons hang beneath so-called glider wings, legs and feet dangling in the artificial breeze as they're swung into the middle of an 80-foot, dome-shaped motion picture screen for a breathtaking bald-eagle's eye view of California's scenic wonders. Count them—from the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, busy LA freeway by night, to Mission Bay in San Diego.

Oddly enough, the public reception to the latest Disney franchise was initially lukewarm until executives came up with an enticing package.

Initially, tourists who wanted to visit both theme parks had to pay separate entrance fees ($43 for adults and $33 for children below 9 years old) to do so. With the introduction of a number of package deals such as theme-park hopping and enticing hotel accommodations, more young and young at heart have started to flock in.

Keep 'em dreamin'.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph.



IT'LL be hard to miss this latest attraction in Anaheim.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Extended celebration

YOU can still mark both the Chinese New Year and Valentine's Day at the Pan Pacific Manila (M. Adriatico corner Gen. Malvar Streets, Malate).

The special room rates are: executive room, P3,200++; executive superior room, P3,700++; executive deluxe room, P4,200++; superior deluxe room, P4,700++; Pacific suite, P6,000++; executive suite, P7,000++; and deluxe suite, P8,000++.

A daily buffet breakfast at the Pacific Lounge, a bubble bath with rose petals upon request, a bottle of red wine, and discounts in fortune telling are among the amenities included.

This package, for local residents, *balikbayan* and foreigners with alien certificate of registration, is valid until Feb. 28.

For reservations, contact the Butler at 536-0788 or e-mail reserve.mnl@panpacific.com.

Conference packages

WHITE Rock, Subic Bay's premier beach hotel, is launching its Teambuilding and Planning Conference Center with conference and seminar packages for a minimum of 30 persons.

The most popular package provides set meals and snacks for three days and two nights for P3,320.

All packages are valid until March 15 and include, among others, free use of five newly refurbished conference rooms, the recreation center and the KTV room; sauna bath for all participants; and bonfire by the beach.

For inquiries, call 421-2781 to 82 or 638-7899; fax to 421-2785; or visit the Manila sales office at the 2nd floor of the Office Warehouse Building (in front of Mercury Drug), Libis, Quezon City.

New president

THE GENERAL manager of Hotel Inter-Continental Manila, Michael G. Herrmann, has been elected president of the Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines, HRAP chair Larry J. Cruz announced recently.

Herrmann succeeds Rutger Verschuren and Eduard Hoogeweegen, who have both resigned from their Manila posts.

Herrmann has had extensive experience in Europe, the United States, Latin America and the Asia Pacific. As an accomplished senior hospitality management specialist, his expertise includes all areas of hotel operations, finance and development.

He will be assisted by two vice presidents—Bill Vincent, GM of Holiday Inn Manila, and Mitos Araneta, president of Alfredo's Steaks.

Fast craft

THE M/V Maria Natasha, one of the four fast craft newly acquired by the Montenegro Shipping Lines (MSLI), is now servicing the Pilar (Sorsogon)-Masbate route in the Southern Tagalog region.

The 12-cyclinder, two-engine Natasha has a total passenger capacity of 98 and a gross tonnage of 72.00.

MSLI fast craft have made travel easier and faster. The trip from Pilar to Masbate and vice versa now takes only an hour and a half.

The MSLI fleet is now composed of 14 ro-ro (roll on, roll off) vessels, four fast craft and one tugboat.

P400-MILLION RESORT A-BUILDING

The Clearwater Country Club Resort at the Clark Special Economic Zone is scheduled for a soft opening in April. The 12-hectare property being developed by the Hong Kong-based Yats International Group will feature a manmade lake divided into five swimming spots. Club members and their guests will also enjoy fishing and other sports facilities, an arcade, as well as a spa right next to the lake. Accommodations will include lakeside cottages, lodges and luxury tents.

MEMBERS of the board of directors of La Consolacion College Alumnae Association: Seated, from left, Norma Molina Compuesto, Chit Picache Vizconde, Dr. Erlinda Dira Callanta, Sr. Puri Alma Pena, Cefie Valderama; standing, from left, Dr. Chit Mendoza, Susie Calvo-Sevilla, Margie P. Limdico, Conce Reyes Peronilla, Elizabeth Poe, Amalia de la Gomez, Bess Yap

La Consolacion College Manila is 100 years old

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

I MET Elizabeth Poe, sister of actor Fernando Poe, with her former classmate from La Consolacion College Manila. They were excited about their alma mater's centennial celebration, with events planned out until December.

Amalia de la Rosa-Gomez, the group's coordinator, informed us about the forthcoming alumni homecoming on March 3 at the school. Registration starts at 9 a.m., followed by a Mass, which will be officiated by Fr. Larry Faraon at 11 a.m. There will be a program after lunch that includes the giving away of awards and plaques of recognition and raffle of prizes.

Some of the school's well-known graduates include Supreme Court Justice Consuelo Henares Santiago and Leyte Gov. Rosette Yñiguez Leria. There were also Violeta Calvo-Drilon, the late wife of Sen. Franklin Drilon, and Pelagia V. Soliven, mother of Philippine Star publisher Max Soliven and Manila Bulletin's lifestyle editor Ethel Timbol.

Spearheading the events on Sept. 4, foundation anniversary of the school and feast of Our Lady of Consolation, are the alumni association officers, namely: Elizabeth Ann Poe, president; Amalia de la Rosa-Gomez, VP for external affairs; Sr. Puri Alma Pena, VP for internal affairs; lawyer Ellen Francisco, secretary; Cefie F. Valderama, assistant secretary; Susie Calvo-Sevilla, treasurer; Conce R. Peronilla, auditor; and Chit Vizconde, PRO.

The directors are Dr. Felicitas Mendoza, Norma Compuesto, Cecile Sideco, Margie Limdico, Fe Fernando-Flores, Bess Yap, Erlinda Dira Callanta and Henrietta Manlapaz-Enano. Sr. Imelda Mora is director of alumnae affairs. The school is run by the Augustinian nuns.

Sto. Niño and Marian exhibits

THE ALUMNI is setting up an exhibit of Sto. Niño and Marian images on Feb. 25, 10 a.m., at the school. Other activities include exposure trip to the Center for Ecozoic Living and Learning Center in Silang, Cavite. To reserve, call Amy Gomez at 890-6025; Seminar on "Gender Sensitivity" by lawyer Katrina Legarda and Dr. Vivian Sarabia on Feb. 27; and a pilgrim trip to Our Lady of Manaoag on Feb. 28.

Calling all alumni

ALUMNI from all levels (elementary, high school and college) are being invited to attend the alumni homecoming on March 3, 9 a.m. Call Amy Gomez at 890-6025 or 897-5948, or the LCCM alumni office at 313-0602.

Healing Mass of Father Cacao

WE had the most beautiful spiritual experience when we went to the Healing Mass celebrating the second anniversary of the Sancti Dei Healing Center in Lopez Village, Los Baños, Laguna on Feb. 11, which was also the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Two other priests joined Father Cacao in the healing. They were Fr. Erwin Sanchez of the San Pablo Cathedral and Fr. Beng Molavin, parish priest of Immaculate Conception Parish in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The church was filled with people from Laguna and from Manila. Father Cacao said, "Your coming here is like taking a rest, so you can experience the presence of the Lord in this place."

The schedule of other Healing Masses of Father Cacao are: Feb. 20, 12 nn, San Antonio de Padua Parish in Kalayaan, Laguna (Fr. Boyet Siddayao is parish priest); Feb. 22, 7 p.m., Holy Family Parish, Sampaguita Village in San Pedro, Laguna (with Fr. Marcelino Ramos, parish priest); and Feb. 27, 6 p.m., at Immaculate Conception Parish in Sta. Cruz, Laguna with Fr. Molavin as parish priest.

St. Joseph fiesta

PREPARATIONS are being made by the Friends of St. Joseph Foundation for the Fiesta del Señor San Jose 2002 at the Hospicio de San Jose from March 10-19. This is the eighth year that the Friends are holding an exhibit of St. Joseph images and novena Masses. Chair of the fiesta committee is Jessie Nell with Ben de Jesus as cochair.

This year's *hermanos mayores* are Luis Ablaza III and Ma. Victoria Tengco. President is Danny T. Reyes, while the honorary chair is Jose Mari Chan. Yours truly is chair of the board. Those interested to bring their St. Joseph images for exhibit can beep me at Easy Call 141-020543.

Trip to Medjugorje

ARPEX Travel is now organizing a pilgrimage trip to Medjugorje leaving Manila on April 1, Easter Monday. The trip goes straight to Vienna, transfer to Sarajevo, then bus to Medjugorje. Those who wish to take a side trip to Lourdes or Fatima can call Alice Padlan at 525-3883 or 525-3902. Fr. Luis Ibasco is chaplain.

Priest needs help

FR. Tony Festin, parish priest of St. Isidore Parish in Guinbirayan, Sta. Fe, Romblon, told me months ago he needed a motorcycle that would bring him faster to the barrios to say Mass or anoint the sick and dying. To help him is imperative if we want him to bring God closer to the people. His parishioners are mostly farmers and fishermen. Those who wish to help can beep me at Easy Call 141-020543. The Honda Motorcycle costs P85,000.

'Soledad' brought to Gapan

THE PILGRIM icon of Our Lady of Soledad de Porta Vaga was brought to the shrine of the Divina Pastora in Gapan, Nueva Ecija, yesterday. The Cofradia de la Nuestra Señora de la Soledad de Porta Vaga headed by Tony Nazareno brought the image:

I hope the San Roque Parish will revive the Black Procession of the "Soledad" on Good Friday, which is attended by people from Manila and other places as reparation for their sins. This practice is devotional, not liturgical, according to a priest.

Rejoicing comes in the morning

IF you feel down because business is not so good and you are faced with financial problems, here's Psalm 30: 4-5. It says, "rejoicing in the morning, after a night of weeping." Victor U. López sent this through e-mail. I'd like to share this with you, so you will be comforted.

"Today's Seed": "Sing to the Lord, you saints of His; praise His holy name. For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."

Prayer: "Lord, it is a comfort to know that though circumstances may be difficult now, they will not remain that way. Help me to see beyond the difficulties and see the joy You have promised to come. Give me strength to confidently trust that my 'morning' is on its way, and I thank You for the certainty of Your unfailing promises. In Jesus' name, amen."

Christ's Youth in Action

CHRIST'S Youth in Action is a group in Iloilo City that attends to the spiritual needs of poor youth. Maria Escobar, a member of the said group and daughter of Dolly Orendain Escobar who sent us this information, is appealing to readers of this column to support the concert of Bukas Palad Music Ministry on Feb. 23, 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., at the West Visayas State University.

They need people to buy tickets for the youth in the barrios, so they can attend. To help, please call Dolly Escobar at 826-8331 (Manila), Maria Escobar at (033) 315-5140 (Iloilo) or (0917) 346-2901, or Rhoda at (033) 336-3828 (Iloilo). Thank you for your kindness.

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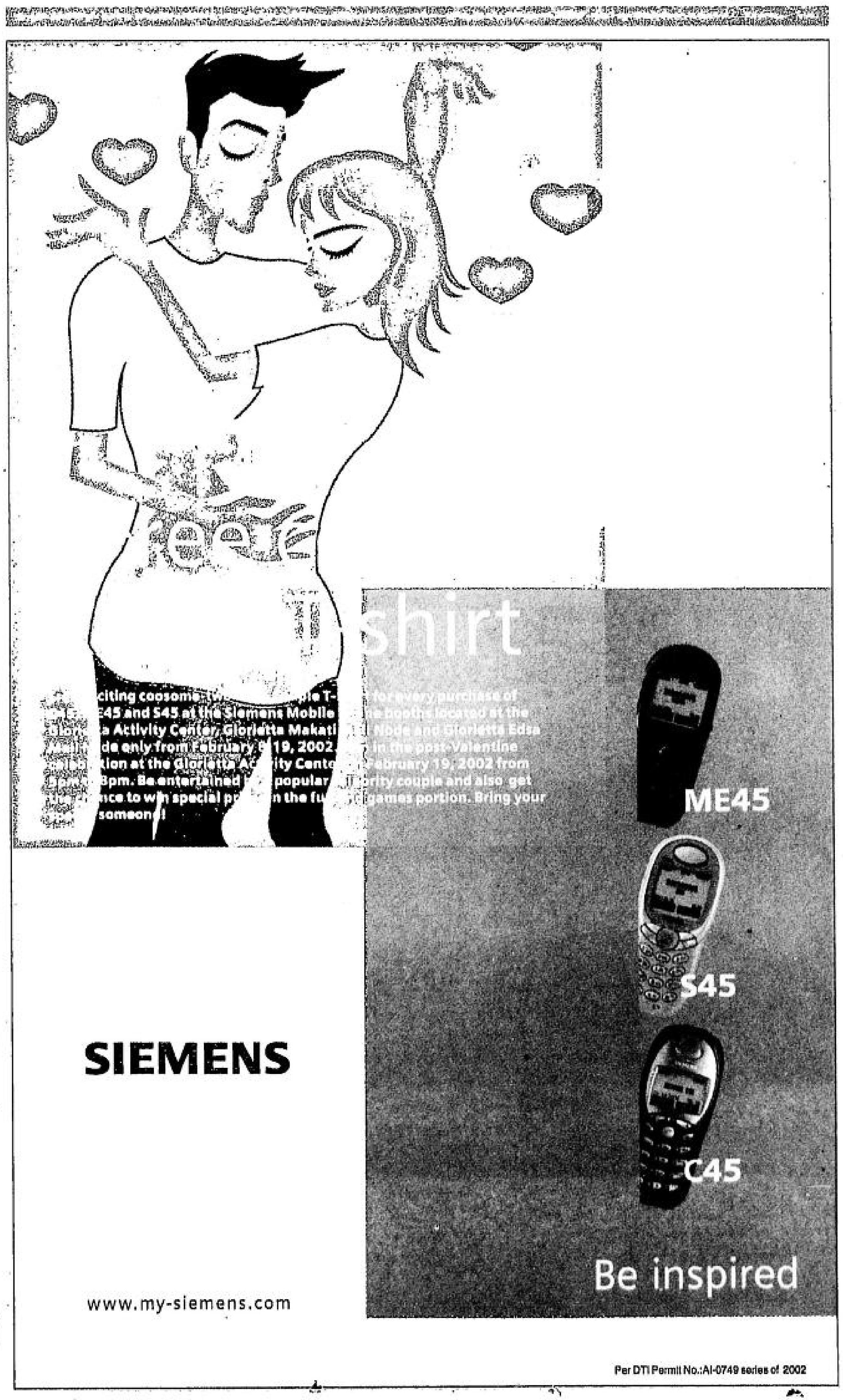

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NEWLYWEDS Charmaine (nee Matschuck) and Anton Bondoc

BONDOC-MATSCHUCK

Romance is a matter of serendipity

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

FOR ANTON Bondoc and Charmaine Matschuck, sweet serendipity worked its magic. When they attended a mutual friend's birthday party, they had no inkling that that initial meeting would pave the way to friendship and, ultimately, lead to the altar.

Strangers before their first encounter, Anton and Charmaine found an instant bond that was totally unexpected. They felt at ease with each other right away, as if they had been friends all their lives.

> They felt at ease with each other right away.

SECONDARY sponsors Elaine Dy, Marge Camacho, Joy Escobar and Angie Grey

Their friendship grew deeper and stronger as they began their respective careers. Anton, who got his computer science degree from the Colegio de San Juan de Letran, managed his family's business enterprise, while Charmaine, with a diploma in business management from De la Salle University, started a promising career as a professional stock broker. They nurtured their friendship until it blossomed into a full-blown romance.

With the blessings of their parents, Antonio Delfin and Carolina (nee Herranz) Bondoc and Dr. Gunter and Joanne (nee Solis) Matschuck, Anton and Charmaine were wed on Nov. 24 at the St. Jerome Emiliani and St. Susana Parish Church in Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City at solemn rites officiated by the Rev. Fr. Larry Tan. The bride wore a classic white gown encrusted with sequins and rare beads designed by Danny dela Cuesta. Mike Perfecto did the clothes of the entourage.

Lilting

To the lilting sound of the Manila Music Ensemble, the bridal procession started with the adorable little attendants Justus Ernst Fiedler (Bible bearer), John Christian Matschuck (ring bearer), Robert Bondoc Jr. (arras bearer) and flower girls Erica Nuval, Snowy Ayson and Katrina Bondoc. Charmaine was glowing as she walked with her father towards the altar to where her tall and handsome groom waited.

The *ninangs* were socialites Mellie Ablaza, Maridel Villavicencio, Nini Licaros, Yolly Ayson, Marissa Fenton, Leah Meriguet, Isabel Bondoc, Gina Jane Grey and Therese Coronel-Santos. *Ninongs* were Secretary Roilo Golez, Consul Vince Carlos, Johnny Litton, Ditos Bondoc, Henry Zabarte, Fernando Ampil, Eduardo Arroyo Jr., Noel Laman and Boy Guevara.

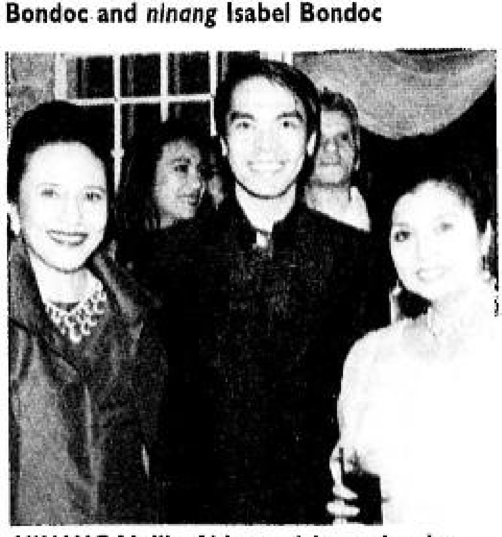
The newlyweds' young friends completed the entourage. Roxanne Camille Hoey, the bride's sister, was maid-of-honor while Roberto Bondoc, the groom's brother, was the best man. The bridesmaids were Joy Escobar, Marge Camacho, Patch Bondoc, Elaine Dy and Mary Ann Belle Ilano, and groomsmen were Robert Adriano, Chris Canlas, Caldwell Gregory Hoey and Bernard Rocha. Other secondary sponsors were Mae Aquino and Ryan Cruz for the candles, Angie Grey and Michael Angelo Filo for the veil, and Joy Escobar and Wayland George Hutchinson for the cord.

Marilen Lopez's El Comedor catered the wedding banquet, held under a huge white tent pitched on an empty lot adjacent to the Matschuck's home in Ayala Alabang. The multilayered cake was created by MSG Cake and Concepts, and the wedding coordination was by Mylene Sazon of Perfect Weddings Inc. The church décor was done by Ramon Pastor, who used mainly white roses and calla lilies. The same all-white theme was carried over to the floral setting at the reception, personally supervised by the bride's mother, Joanne, through her company, Max Products.

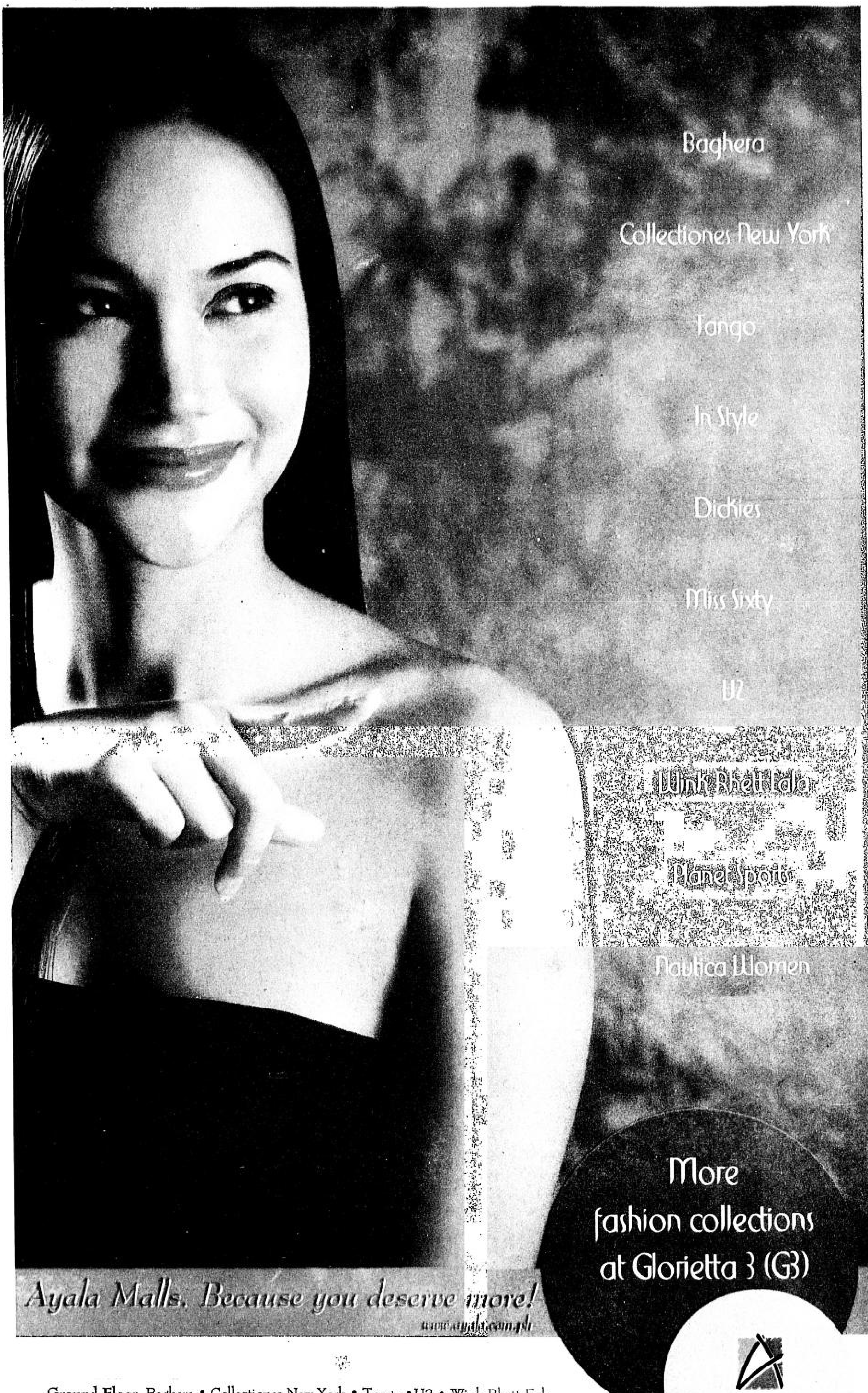
The honeymoon is on hold while the couple awaits a visit from the stork any day now.

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE D5

SERGE Ayson, the groom's mom Carolina Bondoc and *ninang* Isabel Bondoc



NINANG Mellie Ablaza with son Jun-Jun and Thelma Gana



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Chic set can't get enough of new boutique

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

MUST-GO-TO boutique—**Tyler.** This is the hippest local (meaning they design and manufacture) store at the moment. Since its opening in November, Manila's trendy, "Sex and the City"-loving fashionable women have swamped the store and still can't seem to get enough of it. The store also caters to trendy and fashionable men who don't have any place to go for cool, hip stuff (think: Helmut Lang-cut, sleek and lean.)

Overseeing design and merchandising for the store is talented and multiawarded designer **Jojie Lloren**.

The store offers items at reasonable prices and has only six pieces of every size (read: You won't keep bumping into people wearing the same outfit).

On a personal note, Tyler has become my fave store, popping in there once a week to see their latest offerings. It also has the coolest shoes for men and women and, as I said earlier, at very reasonable prices. Check out Tyler at the 2/F Glorietta 4 near Art Fab (tel. 757-0030).

Cell phone = Stress. The cell phone has become part and parcel of our life so what happens when it is taken away by an unforeseen force? Last December, failing to pay my Globe bill on time, I was unable to use my cell phone for a day. It was probably the worst thing that can happen to someone who lives and breathes cell phone. It was almost like losing an arm, at least it seemed to hurt as much.

I stood in line early in the morning to pay my phone bill but when it was my turn, the person at the counter said my deadline was the day before so I was being charged an additional P5,000. All of a sudden the person in front of me looked like a dartboard. I had to let off steam (read: overacted) and made the dramatic announcement that I was switching to Smart. But the person at the counter did not care.

HIPPIE CHIC. The look of the moment at Tyler

So I had to go to the ATM to get the additional P5,000. Here's the clincher: After I paid, I was told the line would be activated only after 24 hours. The guy in front no longer looked like a dartboard but morphed into Osama (think: I would surely love to chop his head off). No more invectives and drama, I resigned myself to my fate.

Store has only six pieces of every size so you won't be bumping into people wearing the same outfit

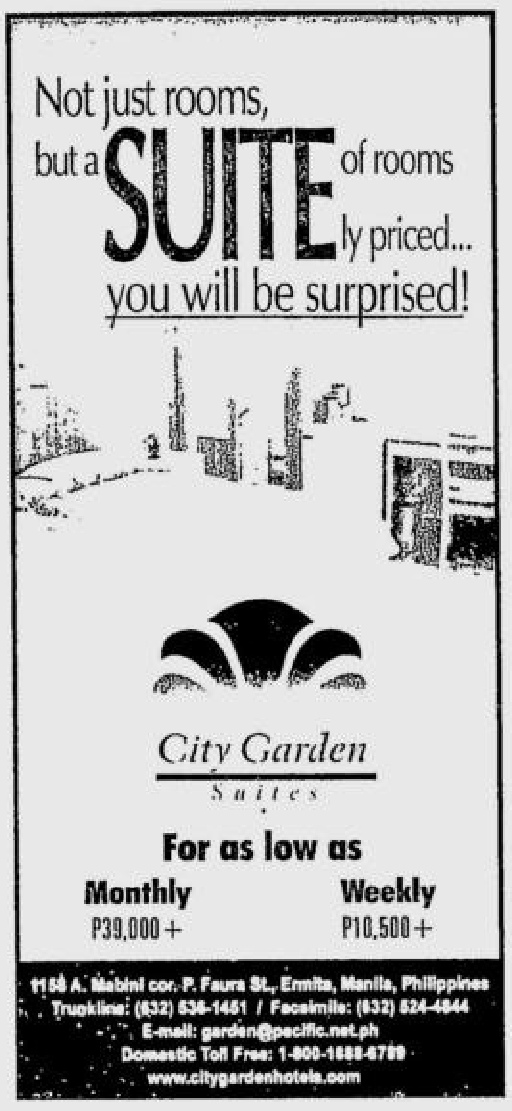
Back in my car, I had panic attacks. I was thinking out loud, "What if someone called or texted me? What if there's a blackout or coup attempt and I did not know about it? What if **Tessa Valdes** was forwarding texts? What if..." For the first few hours I was distraught. I hated the feeling that people were trying to contact me or I had lost touch with my friends because my phone was cut off. After three hours, I finally accepted the reality that my phone would not be ringing (to the tune of Santana's "Smooth"). Somehow I felt at peace. I did not have to drive and text or speak to someone. In short, I did not have to get stressed. I welcomed the feeling.

Technology has totally transformed all our lives. We are beset with cell phones ringing and we are constantly trying to get the latest phone models. Chores like answering the e-mail and booting the Palm Pilot into the computer seem to have only made life a bit hellish, instead of easier. We lead fast-paced lives that even our toys have become faster. That's the price we pay for wanting advancement. So if we lead more stressful lives now, it's our choice.

After 24 hours, I heard once more

CHIC/ p.E2

DESIGNER Jojie Lloren is creative director for hip store Tyler.



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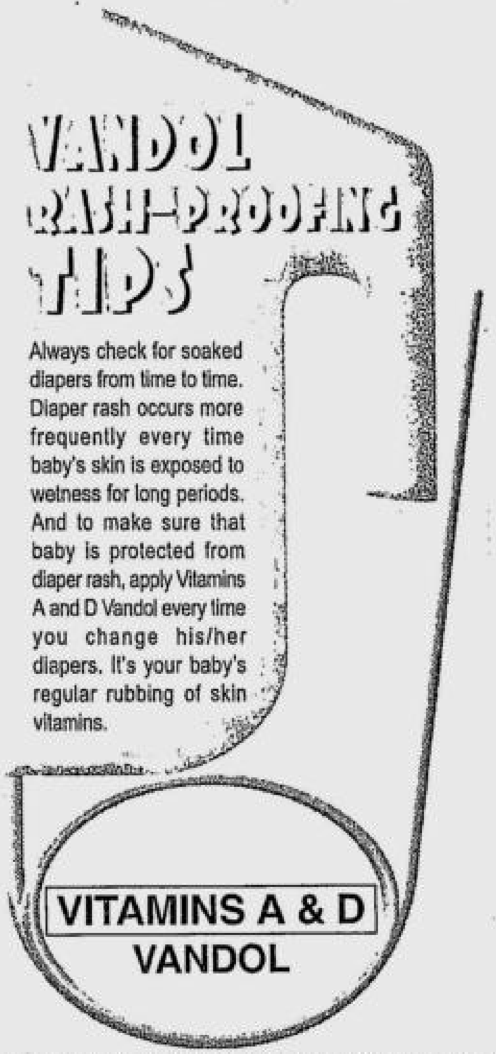

VANDOL RASH-PROOFING TIPS
Always check for soaked diapers from time to time. Diaper rash occurs more frequently every time baby's skin is exposed to wetness for long periods. And to make sure that baby is protected from diaper rash, apply Vitamins A and D Vandol every time you change his/her diapers. It's your baby's regular rubbing of skin vitamins.
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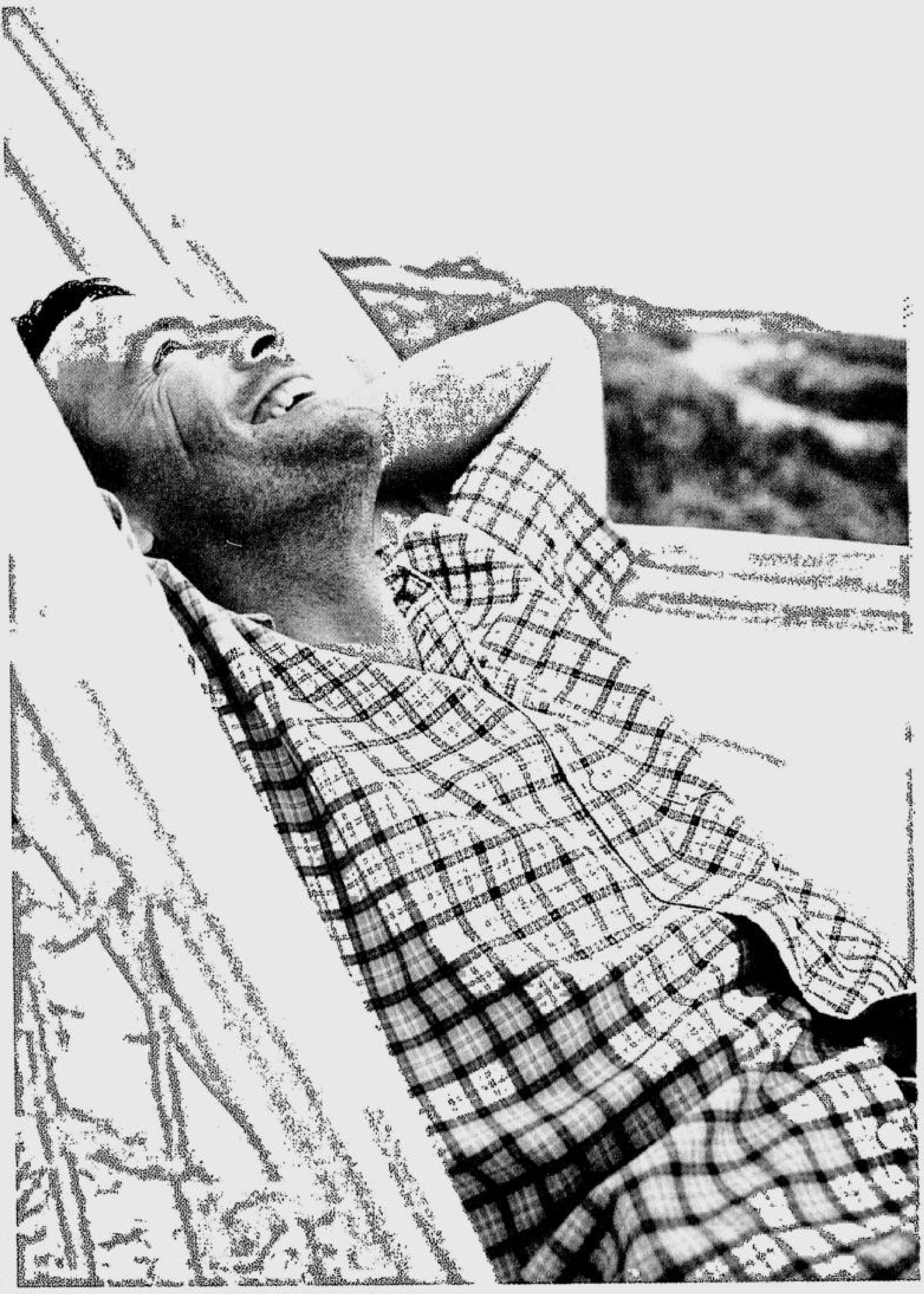

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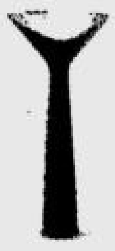

[Valencia Vase by Arcade]

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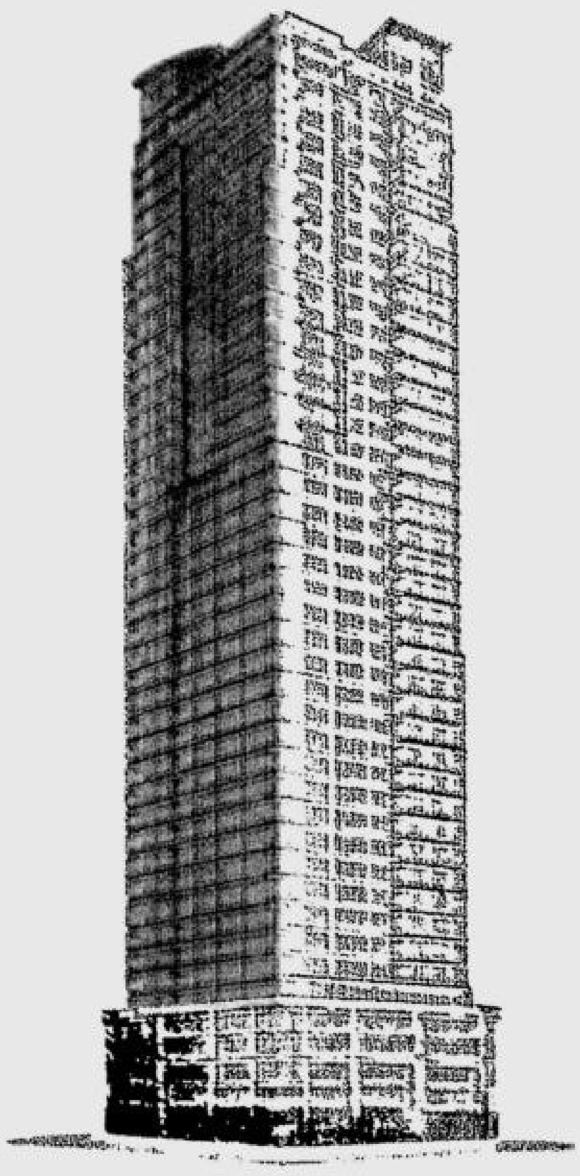

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RAJAH Travel's Alice San Juan, Amexco Adventure's Gerry de Guzman, Fiesta Travel's Dolly Fortun, Travel Saver's Thelma Trivino, Tourist Information Bureau's Sony Lopez Gonzalez and Budget Travel's Audrey General

Airlines opens new Manila office

NORTHWEST Airlines recently inaugurated its new satellite ticketing office in Manila. Located at G/F Manila Midtown Hotel corner Adriatico and Pedro Gil Streets, Ermita, Manila, the new office reaffirms Northwest's commitment to customer service with its convenient location and improved facilities for passenger ticketing.

US embassy's chargé d'affaires minister Robert Fitts cut the ceremonial ribbon with Northwest Airlines GM for Philippines, Guam and Micronesia Laurie Lofgren. Fr. Eamonn Byrne of the Malate Catholic Church blessed the office.

Well-wishers at the event included Travel-Saver's Thelma Trivino, Rajah Travel's Alice San Juan, US embassy's Rafael Rodriguez, Delmar Travel's Ricky Ordonez, Amexco Adventure's Gerry de Guzman, Pan-Pacific Travel's Albert Fu and Helen Hao, Fiesta Travel's Dolly Fortun, Horizon Travel's Raymond Tee, Manila Midtown Hotel's Lamberto Gopez and many more.

Also on hand from the management were Don Marshall, Gina Campos, Mark Abastillas, Jing Kare, Candy Ochoa, Jojo Veneracion and Nilo Rodriguez.

NW-ITI'S Don Marshall, US embassy chargé d'affaires minister Robert Fitts, NWA GM for Philippines, Guam and Micronesia Laurie Lofgren and NW-ITI's GM Gina Campos

NW-ITI general manager Gina Campos, New Horizon Travel's Chie Bejar, Salvtug's Capt. Renato Torreno, Horizon Travel's Raymond Tee and Morning Star Travel's Emiliano Garchitorena

Chic set can't get enough of new boutique

From page E1

my "Smooth" ringer. Somehow my heart skipped a beat and, despite all that talk about how nice it was to be without my cell phone, I was actually happy it rang. I got six text jokes from Tessa. The moral of the story: Pay your phone bill on time.

Must-enroll-at gym—Gold's Gym. The first time I saw the sign in Glorietta that the Gold's Gym was opening I was ecstatic. First, because the eyesore that once occupied the spot where it would be located was being replaced; second, it's the most recognized club name in the fitness industry; and third, I just had to be a part of it. The gym will have its soft opening in March and grand opening in July.

It boasts of top-of-the-line and state-of-the-art aerobic and strength equipment; juice bar that serves healthy food from salads, smoothies to sandwiches; a pro shop; 300 lockers; steam and sauna facilities; and ACE-certified instructors (read: they know what they're doing). The gym will offer the latest fitness trends from the United States and will be introducing pump aerobics (combination of strength and aerobic exercises) and the really fun karaoke spinning (cycling while singing).

The gym will occupy three floors and will have a floor area of 2,275 square meters. It will also be open till 12 midnight. Visit their booth at the Glorietta mall or call 752-8280.

* * *

A funny thing happened to me on the way to the movies. The incident must be one of the weirdest and grossest movie-watching experiences in my life. Before Makati's old theaters were renovated, you could expect rats to be scampering about as you and your friends watched a movie.

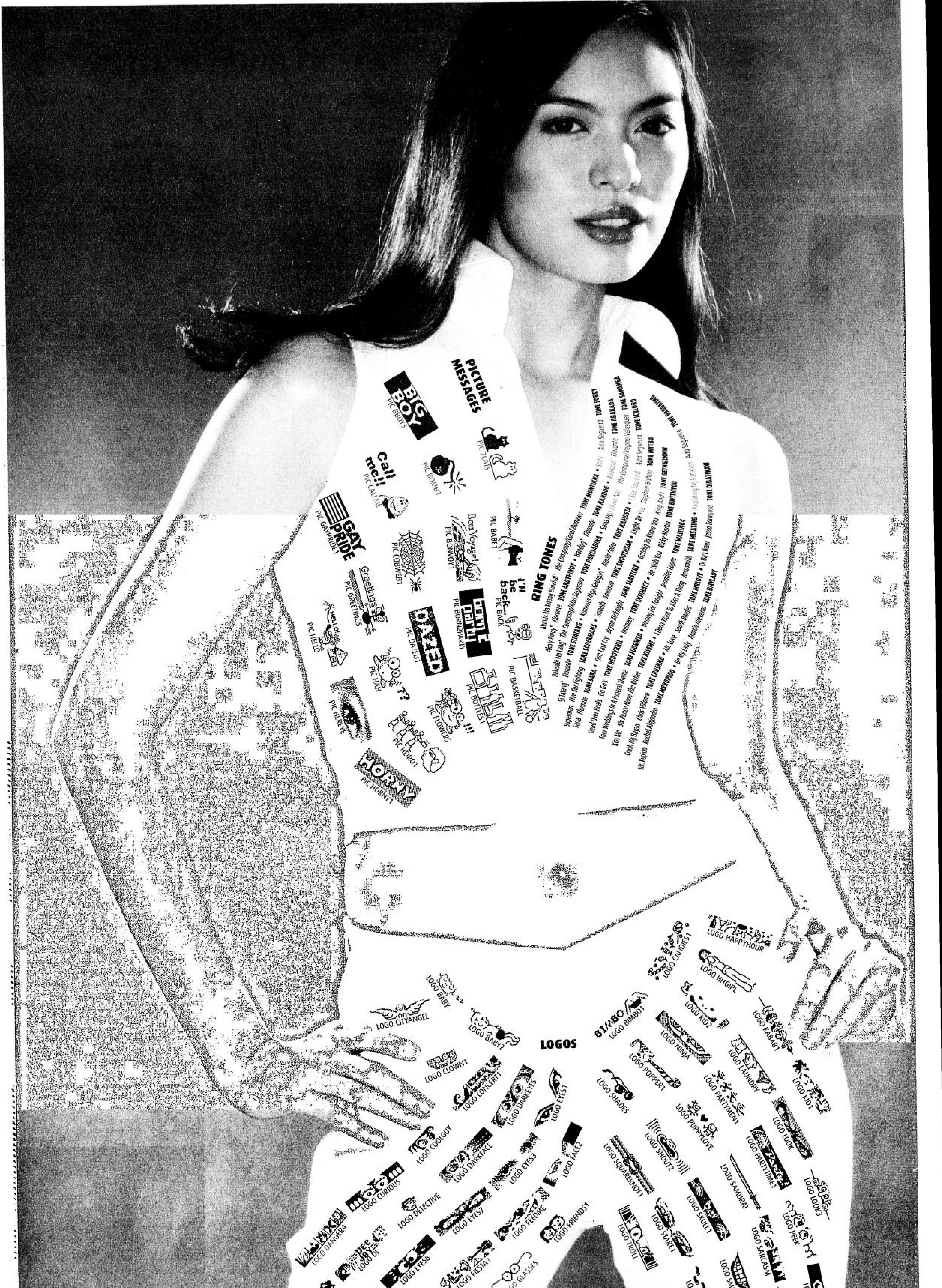
Last Monday I was supposed to catch the last full show with a friend. Assuming we would go to the Glorietta, I bought tickets to "Vanilla Sky." At 10:15 p.m. he called me up to say he was in Rockwell. I decided to watch the movie alone. Two men seated behind me were speaking so loudly that they were competing with the Dolby speakers. They were speaking in a language I could not understand.

GOLD'S Gym's logo

I asked them to keep quiet but after five minutes, they started talking again. This time I was furious. I turned around to confront them, putting my hand on the armrest. I felt something soft and was appalled to see I was holding one of the men's foot—*walang sapatos o medyas*. Wow, I freaked! And, despite Tom Cruise's being the star of the movie and the P240 I spent (I bought a ticket for my friend who was watching in Rockwell), I had to leave.

I hurried to the car to clean my hands with alcogel (industrial strength). I was so pissed off I could not go back to the movie house. When I got home, I washed my hands several times to get the feeling of his foot off my fingers. Oh well, this is really one for the books.

E-mail the author at asd_world@hotmail.com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LOGO DANGER4
DEE JAY
LOGO DJ
LOGO EYES8
LOGO FIESTA1
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LOGO DRINK2
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LOGO HANDS
LOGO FACE1
LOGO FILM
LOGO HAPPY
LOGO HAPPYHOUR
LOGO CANDIES1
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Bvlgari and vulgarity

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

CECILIA Rodriguez, Ethel Timbol, Thelma San Juan and Amparito Lhuillier

MARGOT Osmeña

TERESING Mendezona and Mario Katigbak

ON FEB. 9, three Cebu dailies carried the same banner story on page 1—a jail sentence of 42 years to a 16-year-old boy who, three years ago, hacked to death three of his playmates in the mountain barrio of Busay. Where would he serve his sentence? In prison, of course, with hardened criminals, and with little chance of rehabilitation. But perhaps not, thanks to **Margot Osmeña**, First Lady of Cebu City.

Back in 1986, **Tommy** and Margot Osmeña returned from exile in the United States and came to settle in Cebu. They took the plight of street children as their personal crusade, and when Tommy was elected mayor in 1988, they went all out. It is not just street children that Margot busied herself with, but those who are abused, led into prostitution, snared into the living hell that is the world of drugs.

Was there anything else, or more? Yes, Margot would nod her head, and with an intensity that is characteristic of her, would tell about the young boys and girls who are detained for criminal offenses. They are jailed with grownups, many of whom are, sad to say, beyond redemption. So Margot took up another project: Operation Second Chance. This is a detention center for minors, a place where they may be regenerated, taught skills and imbued with values.

The center was recently inaugurated, but there is still much to be done to complete its services. Hence the need for a fund-raiser, and this came via an exhibit of Bvlgari jewelry, dinner at the Shangri-La Mactan and an entertainment show. **Mario Katigbak** thought it was a great idea to help this worthy cause and started to make all the arrangements. Like footing the bill, for instance, in behalf of Bvlgari.

A committee went into action led by **Chari Aboitiz**, together with **Eva Gullas**. They went to work, selling 35 tables with 10 guests each. **Ben Bousnina**, general manager of the Shangri-La here, and **Mark Kirk**, F&B director, quickly set up a delectable menu patterned after La Chaine des Rotisseurs dinners. **Teresing Mendezona** designed the décor, covering tables with metal cloth (platinum, what else?) and creating a different centerpiece for each: Lilies, roses, orchids.

A week before the event the tickets were sold out and there was talk of expanding the capacity. Perfect for Operation Second Chance, as the price of the ticket went directly to its coffers. There were also instructions on the invitations that stated to what entity the checks should be given.

On the night of Feb. 9 guests started to arrive at 6:30 p.m. at the Shangri-La. A soft red carpet flanked by floral adornments led to the stairs that in turn led to the crystal hall adjoining the Mactan Ballroom. It was a feast for the eyes (and any lady's arms, ears, throats, fingers) with all that Bvlgari splendor on show.

Margot O was welcoming everyone, and so was Chari in a Chanel gown. Mayor Tommy arrived and got the rush. **Amparito Lhuillier** came in and there was a hush. She was in a black lace number bearing the unmistakable signature of her daughter, **Monique Lhuillier**, whose bridal line is sold across the US, and whose new line of eveningwear has been a stunning success. Or see what **Angelina Jolie** wore at the Globe awards, and **Mariah Carey** at the Super Bowl.

The doors of the ballroom were opened at exactly 8 p.m. and in filed everyone in search (an easy and efficient one, we might say) of his/her assigned seat. An army of dapperly dressed waiters immediately started pouring wine and serving the first course—Poached Seafood Salad with lemon grass and coriander dressing. It looked like a floral arrangement, and was simply delicious.

The cream of pumpkin was just as tasty, and that was duck comfit on the *taquito*. Followed a champagne sherbet flavored with lime, and the main course: Chicken Breast Crepinette, wrapped in spinach, baked, garnished with mango, herbs and Parma ham. The chocolate and *buko* mousse served for dessert had a little candy on the side shaped like a clock that said the time was 10:10 p.m.

And so it was indeed, the hour for the entertainment to start. Many a jaw dropped at the offensive humor that was outright vulgar, and without the mitigating factor of, at least, cleverness. An unkind impersonation of **Imelda Marcos** was completely out of character. And all that ear-splitting screeching, babbled like a machine gun, sent people off to the lavatories, never to return to their seats.

More than half of the audience left, opting to continue viewing (and buying) Bvlgari, lounging in the lobby to await for others who'd follow, or driving home, perchance to detour to any of the many night spots that have made Cebu life all the more hectic.

Who were the performers? You'll not read their names in this column. There were some excellent Manila writers, such as **Ethel Timbol, Thelma San Juan, Anton San Diego**, plus **Alex van Hagen** who will give you a wider coverage of the event.

ROSEBUD Sala and Chari Aboitiz

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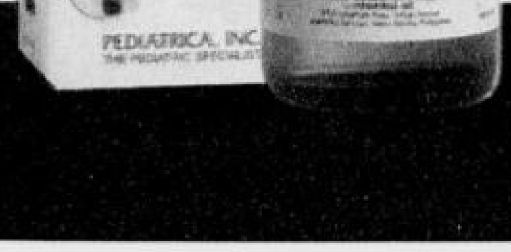

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

When CHIC hits the fan

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

The one-time editor and publisher of Preview magazine, she with a name synonymous with (according to her) embarrassment, social and political faux pas, plus the occasional fashion blunder, tells all

By Kitty Go

EDITORS, publishers and even writers have worshipped and created the cult of celebrity. Some have even *become* celebrities. Witness Anna Wintour at Vogue or Tina Brown of the defunct Talk and formerly highly paid and high-paying editor in chief at Vanity Fair and the New Yorker. In this Hollywood generation of "who gets top billing" and "roll the credits," there has never been a publisher who voluntarily (well, sort of) allowed her name to be left out of the staff box until now. It could happen only in the Philippines.

In the five years that I lived in Manila (including every two minutes of trying to get out), I became the pariah of local show biz, which to my "*pusong mamon*" means absolutely, positively **nothing** (didn't I tell you I overlooked the *mamon*'s sell-by date?). In the words of a former editor in her upper-class Assumption-accented pidgin English, "Catering *naman* to the *artistas* will do nothing to our career but destroy it, *'di ba?*"

The omission of my name from the

WHEN/ p.F2

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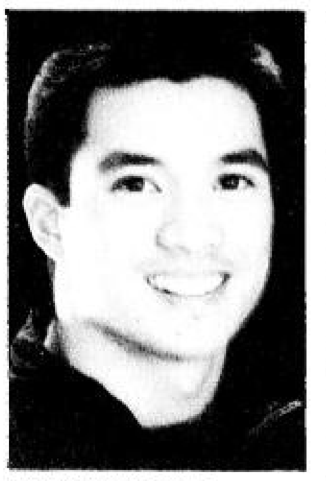
CLAUDINE Barreto


DIETHER Ocampo

G Töngi

TROY Montero

KRIS Aquino

When CHIC hits the fan

> 'One of the life-changing things that I realized after I left Preview is that movie stars wield more power than politicians'

From page F1

staff box of celebrity title Yes! is nothing compared to the humiliation before, during and after the magazine was launched. I am probably the only magazine publisher in history who was (a) not invited to my own magazine launch, (b) unwelcome on shoots and (c) banned from show-biz presscons. Sure, I knew what was going on and set the budgets, but I wasn't "totally involved," as they say in Hollywood parlance. I felt like a bride who prepared for her wedding only to let a Chihuahua walk down the aisle, to the delight of the groom. Tina Brown could have been late for her own launch, but I was a no-show.

I sent my maids who used to hate me. Now I don't have to fear having Dora rat killer in my coffee. They now adore me only because they got to see all the talent (in what?) of Regal Films, Seiko Films, Regal Films and every Pinoywood starlet the night Yes! was launched. I conveniently fled the country (like I always did when the traffic got heavy) to seek solace in my London flat down the street from Kensington Palace and around the corner from Dustin Hoffman and Lord Tony Snowdon. I figured, if I had to escape the humiliation of being a local show-biz pariah, I might as well do it in the vicinity of international celebrities. Of course, I can't say I didn't care. I did. The whole thing really mattered to me and I worried over the whole situation as much as a mother cobra does for her young.

You're probably wondering how a nice bitch like me ended up thrown out of her own party. Apparently, my staff felt I had so offended all of Philippine show biz because of my motor mouth coupled with ignorance that they thought it was better that the boss not only **not** come but even better, not get acknowledged as the boss. In other words, the boss was a hindrance to the progress of the magazine. Actors loathed me, agents absolutely hated my guts and the local show-biz press would have had a field day if they knew what happened behind the scenes.

While my fantastic sales team and I worked to get top-selling celebrity magazine Yes! their Close-Up Confidence, Oks na Oks sa Konting Zonrox, Orocan Plastik na Walastik and Birch Tree Milk Powder to support their editorial budget, the staff of Yes! opted to keep my name out of the staff box and me out of the party because, frankly, they were **ashamed** of me. Well, I would be ashamed of me, too. If you had to look at the same face in the bathroom mirror as I do every morning, you'd be ashamed to look. Seriously, show-biz fans, it was business and I did mean business and the business did mean a lot to me.

What's in a name

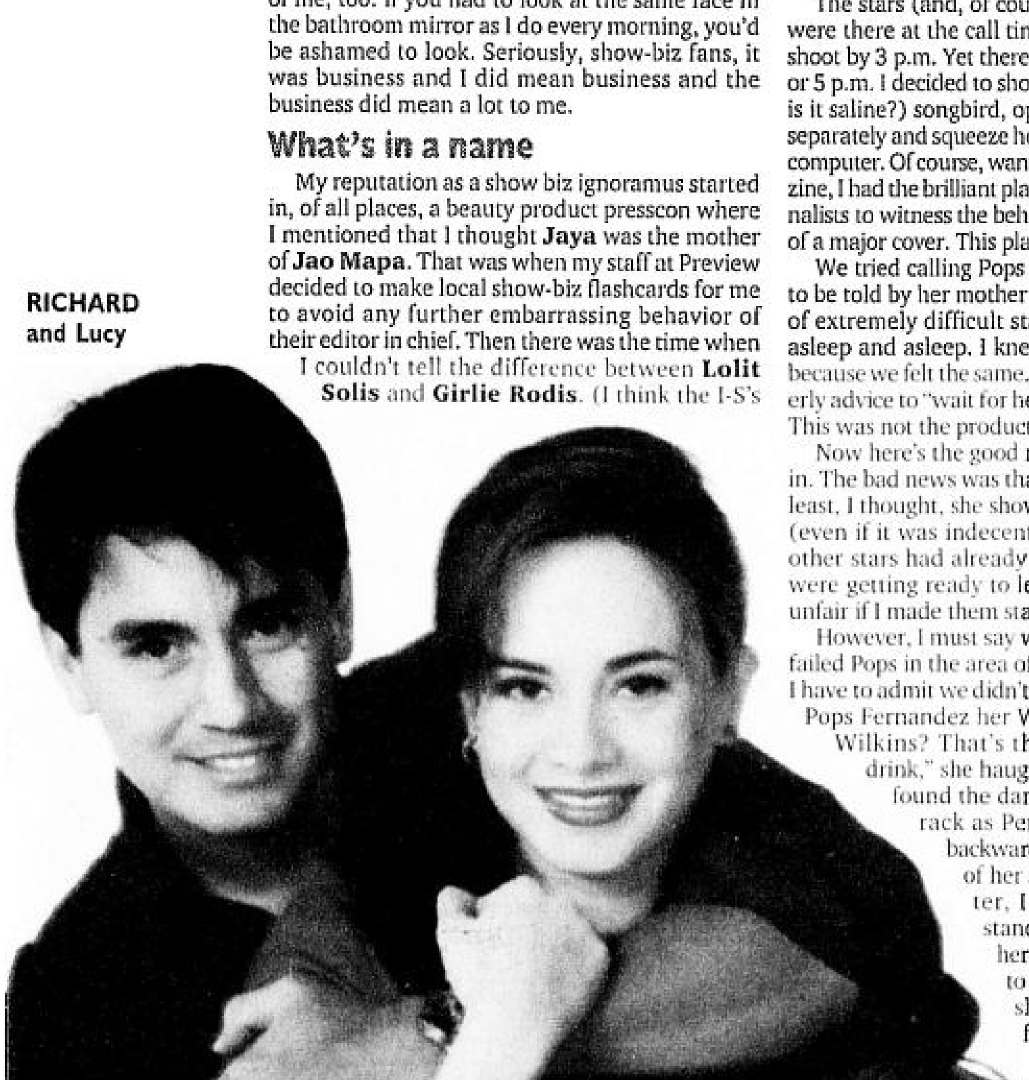
My reputation as a show biz ignoramus started in, of all places, a beauty product presscon where I mentioned that I thought **Jaya** was the mother of **Jao Mapa**. That was when my staff at Preview decided to make local show-biz flashcards for me to avoid any further embarrassing behavior of their editor in chief. Then there was the time when I couldn't tell the difference between **Lolit Solis** and **Girlie Rodis**. (I think the I-S's threw me off.) I always wondered why people keeled over in shock whenever I mixed up Girlie Rodis and Lolit Solis until I met them. I love them both but they couldn't be more different than, say, Jesus Christ and Osama bin Laden.

Well, okay, their personalities are totally different but their beards are almost alike (Jesus and O-Sammy, I mean).

Then there was the time when we had to shoot **Claudine Barretto** for the cover of Preview magazine. Again, I was the magazine's hapless publisher—often fashionable but usually incorrigible. As I walked into the studio that was packed with people, I thought I was entering a Rotary Club cocktail for Mike Arroyo.

"Whaddaralldeespeopledoing here?" I asked in a voice of authority, or so I thought, until my deputy, the intrepid and equally bitchy (she learned from the best!) Tara Santos whispered, "Shut up... Those people are with Claudine!"

Claudine's entourage made J. Lo's and Cher's concert staff look like a nursery school *barkada*. She had so many people working for her that I thought I was on the set of "The March to Bataan" (but in closed quarters) or "The Ten Commandments," and not on a Preview cover shoot. She had the requisite makeup artist and dresser, someone to light her cigarettes, another to fire up her battery-operated milk shaker and yet another to dial her mobile phone when she wanted to call her mother or **Rico Yan**. Meanwhile, I couldn't even get anyone to show me where the toilets were.


RICHARD and Lucy

Pops pops in

Preview usually does a gatefold cover in June and December. For our December 1999 cover, we assembled **Diether Ocampo**, **Vina Morales**, **Troy Montero**, **Lara Fabregas**, **Carlos Agassi**, **Reena**, **Jerome Florentino**, **Gerald Madrid**, **Jessa Zaragosa**, **Serena Dalrymple**, **Rustom Padilla** and **Pops Fernandez**. Except Pops wasn't quite in the assembly. All the stars were fantastic. They were prompt, accommodating and extremely cooperative. If there were a group of local celebrities who could debunk the words "prima donna," it would be this group. Except for Pops.

The stars (and, of course, the requisite *alalays*) were there at the call time of 1 p.m. and ready to shoot by 3 p.m. Yet there was no sign of Pops. By 4 or 5 p.m. I decided to shoot without the silicone (or is it saline?) songbird, opting instead to shoot her separately and squeeze her next to Troy Montero by computer. Of course, wanting publicity for the magazine, I had the brilliant plan of inviting show-biz journalists to witness the behind-the-scenes production of a major cover. This plan later back fired.

We tried calling Pops a few times at home only to be told by her mother that she was in a number of extremely difficult states: Asleep, tired, tired, asleep and asleep. I knew she would understand because we felt the same. We were also given motherly advice to "wait for her to wake up." But when? This was not the production of "Sleeping Beauty."

Now here's the good news. Pops finally walked in. The bad news was that it was already 7 p.m. At least, I thought, she showed up on the correct day (even if it was indecently late). By then, all the other stars had already worked eight hours and were getting ready to leave. It would have been unfair if I made them stay.

However, I must say we did have our faults. We failed Pops in the area of water, as in *tuuuubiiig*!!! I have to admit we didn't have the decency to serve Pops Fernandez her Wilkins. "*Wala ba kayong* Wilkins? That's the only mineral water I drink," she haughtily said, acting as if you found the damn brand along the same rack as Perrier and Evian (spelled backward: naïve). Considering one of her sponsors is now Viva water, I wonder where Wilkins stands today in the scheme of her thirst. When we asked her to put on a Tag Heuer watch, she retorted, "What's in it for me?" I could have asked that question about my job and would have gotten the same answer: "Nothing!"

POPS Fernandez

Guess who, don't sue

If I thought Claudine Barretto's shoot had its cast of 27 *baranggays*, the Preview December gatefold was the set of Nikki Taylor's and Cindy Crawford's new movie, "Two Moles." As I said before, I had the brilliant idea of inviting the local show-biz press to witness this cover we were so proud of. Press people are as observant as vultures over a stack of rib-eye so it didn't surprise me (but I have to admit, it did delight me) that this entire Pops incident came out in INQUIRER's Weekly Waker-Uppers or what is commonly known as "thumbs up, thumbs down." Needless to say, Pops' behavior was a "thumbs down."

To this day, we do not know who leaked the story and the INQUIRER Lifestyle staff is sworn to secrecy (and still is) despite Pops' mother **Dulce Lucban** and agent **Deo Edrinal** asking me to retract the statement, issue an apology **and** make the INQUIRER do the same! Why in Allah's name should I retract a statement I didn't make and why should I apologize for something I didn't do? But that wasn't the end of it. The INQUIRER later came out with another eye-"Popping" tale ragging about more unprofessional behavior involving Pops and a car sponsor.

Our then editor in chief **Anton San Diego** blamed the Preview staff for leaking the news. Now those girls are smart and they could have done it if they wanted to but they were too busy returning clothes, editing, doing layouts and organizing shoots that they really didn't have time to write out a three-sentence contribution to the INQUIRER.

Kris and the revolt-lution

Kris Aquino was in Deo Edrinal's stable of talent, but she declined to join the cover because she had been a popular entry to Preview's annual Best and Worst-Dressed List. Without fail, she fell under "Worst." Worse, she came out together with her mother! So now you can see where we had relationship problems.

I have to say Kris had always been extremely friendly with my former staff. Until, of course, she found out they worked for me. That was when they were ignored and were then cursed as "Kitty Go girls."

For some reason, they still got to attend Kris Aquino's birthday party. They tried to take her picture but she said, "*Ayoko kasi iiokrai mo lang ako.*" By that time, I had left Preview and some guy at this party told Kris na "*wala na si* Kitty Go." It was only then that she agreed to have her picture taken. I never knew how droppable my name was until that day. It had to be dropped from every guest list!

Shit happens

Aside from the annual Best and Worst-Dressed List, we also did a Beautiful People list that also got us a lot of publicity and into a lot of trouble. One year, we put celebrity couple, **Richard Gomez** and **Lucy Torres** on the list, the Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman of local show biz, as they would like to be known (but look at what happened to Tom and Nicole's marriage)... Anyway, we stated something unflattering, in the lines that Lucy marrying Richard would do nothing to her stature in society. So the former McDonald's burger-flipper meat, flipped! His agent, the powerful **Douggie Q (a.k.a. Douglas Quijano)** threatened to unite Pami (some agent's union of some sort) against Preview by not allowing their stars to come out in our magazine. But then, as the saying goes, when a door closes, some nice guy opens a window. And that was when we did our December 1999 gatefold cover. I wanted to send Douggie a blow-up poster of that.

The last word did come from **Mrs. Richard Gomez,** who profoundly and so eloquently put my whole attitude into perspective with only two succinct words, "Shit *siya*..."

I would like to think that editorial wielded a lot of power but in the end, the magazines were a business and we had advertisers to think of. Many of them used the same stars we crossed. And so like life, all good (and naughty) things had to come to an end.

Foot in mouth disease

If there was anyone born with this disease, it had to be me. Of course, this disease doesn't cover quotable lines such as one from **Giselle Töngi** who told one of my former editors that she liked the "animosity" of not being recognized whenever she visited the United States. Or Troy Montero's answer of "Boracay" to the question of what his favorite city in the world was. Or Diether Ocampo's explanation of his love of New York for its "monumental landmarks."

For someone who insists on writing and speaking in simple English, I've had my days I wished I were on silent retreat, such as when I sat next to dzBB talk show host **Neil Ocampo**. I absolutely adore him. Only thing is, I spent a considerable amount of time telling him how I abhored **Ted Failon** and **Korina Sanchez** for their pretentiousness. I later found out they were great friends of his.

Then there was the disastrous time I met then-Central Bank Governor **Jose Cuisia**. I didn't know who he was and he so kindly asked why someone as successful as I was in the United States (I was living and working in Los Angeles at that time) didn't bring her talents to the Philippines. I told him I didn't work in the Philippines because "I refuse to work in a country that paid slave wages and whose currency was play money."

Malacañang was not a happy place for me when I interviewed President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo** last year. On the topic of tourism, I asked her why she didn't put more emphasis on gambling instead of beaches because, "Anyway," I confidently said, "People in South East Asia hate going to the beach and getting dark. They'd rather gamble indoors." *Ate* Glo gave me her traditional glowering look reserved only for offensive press people. I could feel the staff closing in on me. I couldn't even bring myself to stay for the Tang and tuna sandwiches.

I may not be welcome in Manila for a few reasons you may already have figured out. One of the life-changing things I realized after I left Preview is that movie stars wield more power than politicians. How, for example, can editors from my fellow publications get so angry at me because they couldn't get **Sharon Cuneta** to be in their magazines because I offended her by calling her the "titanic"? Meanwhile, I've written worse things about Erap in jail and still he invited me to his grandson's birthday party. Tell me that life isn't a bitch. But I'm glad it's over. My days with local celebrities, that is. Meanwhile, I've moved on from the little pond to the ocean, where the big fish are.

E-mail the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

A glossy view of recent history

From page F4

I can only ask: Has it always been like this? And does everyone believe this is true? I've been asked why I care so much about the medium of the glossy magazine (and I will openly admit that I've applied for entry-level positions at all three and have been turned down), and the answer is simply that I love reading them and believe that, as a medium and as an art form, their potential is staggering. Where else can one find the top photographers collaborating with the best writers, engaging on issues of currency and relevance? One can debate political issues, interview celebrities, comment on social systems and combine all these with a twist of glamour, stylized photographs (not pictures) that record both the couturier's art and the most beautiful faces of the time. And when better to influence the opinions of the decision-making class than when they have cotton balls between their toes?

Terrifying thought

In the middle of a sea of these back issues, crammed with memories of trends, restaurants, brandnames, celebrities, models and issues long since past, or incredulous at the sight of a rotund, prepubescent KC Concepcion or a not-quite-grown-up Sarah Meier, it's a terrifying thought that all this was nothing but the detritus, the incidental secretions as it were, of a conspiracy of powers-that-be, and ha-ha-ha to all the writers and readers who thought these were real.

But I read Sari Yap's triumphant and wistful recollection in the editorial letter of Mega's fifth anniversary issue of how they started in a small office having to borrow the phone at the Sari-sari store across the road; I remember, too, the enthusiasm, intelligence and sense of fun that 26-year-old wunderkind Leah Puyat brought to Preview during its early days; and does anyone remember names such as Look, Belle, Rush, Bond, The Cutting Edge and Taxi? Evidently, I'm not the only silly fool who believed and dreamed and tried and failed. Today we are caught between the slickness of franchised labels on one hand and unashamed worship of the wealthy, their houses, and their hobbies on the other.

The periodical nature of a magazine makes it prone to ephemera; but despite the postulating need for currency, one can often find stories and articles that are interesting not just as "symptoms" of their time, but which are good reading, in every sense of the word, without the condescension of hindsight. "Timelessness" is not necessarily a good measure of the quality of a magazine; but my wade through the brief history of local publishing has convinced me that the qualities of a good magazine are, in some way, timeless. There is a certain perverse glee in reading about once "Bachelor of the Month" men who are now tubby or married or have come out of the closet, or reading about restaurants that have long since closed, or looking at fashion editorials that advocate clothes and color schemes that make one cringe. But the cackle is somewhat muffled by the conviction that the glossy magazine industry has achieved new depths in irrelevance, gratuitous fleshmongering, editorial sloppiness, paucity of originality and freshness, and shameless lack of integrity.

That, by the way, is the bowdlerized version of what I had originally written while in the throes of depression.

MITA Pardo de Tavera and Avon's Jose Mari Franco

MARIXI Prieto and Ken Gibson

SUPPORTERS AND SURVIVORS. Avon's Malu Dy-Buncio, Kara Magsanoc-Alikpala and Edna Bello

A million lipsticks against breast cancer

Photos by Betoy Johnson

AVON, popularly touted as "the company for women," has been known the world over for its passionate commitment to women's health and economic issues. It is a commitment that transcends mere consumer relationship. Through its many projects, Avon has been known to provide assistance to women and the communities where they live and work.

In the United States, Avon is the largest corporate supporter for the breast cancer cause. Globally it has raised more than $100 million in the fight against breast cancer. This March, Avon Philippines launches "Kiss Goodbye to Breast Cancer," a program that aims to raise funds for the purchase of a mammography machine and the establishment of a Breast Care Center for poor women at the Philippine General Hospital's Cancer Institute through the sales of limited edition lipsticks. For every lipstick sold, Avon commits to donate P5. One million lipsticks will raise the P5 million needed for the machine and the center.

Earlier this month, over lunch at the Conservatory of the Manila Peninsula, several breast cancer survivors and personalities from various fields lent their lip imprint and gave of their time to help Avon carry on the fight against breast cancer in the Philippines.

CELESTE Legaspi and Rachel Alejandro

GLENDA Barretto

GING de los Reyes

Antique dealers exhibit rare items

MANA Casa de Artes y Antigos, an art and antique dealer and collector, is one of the 700 exhibitors in the ongoing "9th Annual National Furniture, Furnishings and Fashion Show" at Centermall, Greenhills Shopping Complex. Art and antique collectors can visit the exhibit until March 10.

Collectors may like some of Mana Casa's items such as antiques, furniture and furnishing, lamps and lighting fixtures, art, jewelry, rare artifacts, paintings and sculptural pieces. It has showrooms in Parañaque City and at 143 PBM Compound, J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City.

Organizer of the exhibit is Prime Asia Trade Planners & Convention Organizers (Patepco), which holds office at G/F Blue Mens Building, 707 Urduja St., Barangay Village, Sucat Road, Parañaque City, tel. 802-3862, 826-8162/6732, 829-3165, fax 820-3863.

St. Scho fair ongoing

ST. Scholastica's College of Manila holds a school fair until Feb. 17 at its Leon Guinto campus. Called "Peace-tahan," the theme recognizes the fact that the most urgent matter at present, both locally and globally, is peace.

There will be rides, fun booths, food stands and other stalls selling clothes and novelty items. Entrance tickets, pegged at P25 each, will be sold at the entrance gate on Singalong Street. Proceeds will go to the scholarship program of the school and other research and development undertakings.

Gwyneth Paltrow
Jack Black
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All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages, and screen savers are P12.00 each.
*Available on selected Nokia handsets only.

What Flavor Are You?	How Do You See Yourself?	What's Your Eating Style?
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4. Members may monitor the number of points they have earned by sending the message DPOINTS to 239
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6. Winners will each get a Marie-France Bodyline Int'l gift certificate for one (1) free Fat Mobilization System (FMS) treatment valid at any Marie-France Bodyline Int'l center in Metro Manila until February 27, 2003
7. Naming of winners will be held on Feb 27, 2002, 10:00 am at the Information Gateway office, Unit 1706-B 17/F West Tower, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.
8. Winners shall be notified thru a voice call to their registered cellone number starting February 28, 2002. They will receive their Marie-France Bodyline Int'l gift certificates through registered mail.
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A glossy view of recent history

By Clinton Palanca

OVER THE HOLIDAYS, while going through a self-inflicted state of melancholia, I barricaded myself in my apartment and decided that this was a convenient period to engage in a full-scale attack of depression.

So, did I spend the time thinking noble thoughts or churning out a new treatise on metaphysics? No, the Rockwell Elegies would have to wait. I found myself, instead, wading through the pile of Metro, Preview, and Mega back issues that had been neatly filed, thanks to my fastidious maid, in the study. They were arranged by date, starting from 1995, and were rather alarmingly comprehensive. Had I really spent that much money on magazines? And, more to the point, in heaven's name, why?

> As a medium and as an art form, the potential of glossies is staggering

At a certain point, I had an excuse: I was publishing a literary magazine that, while not in the same genre and serving a very different purpose, competed roughly for the same target market. I also bought these magazines to scout for new writers whose prose, even within the formulaic confines of a beauty or fashion article, seemed to be in some way exceptional. Many of my friends worked as editors or sub-editors of these magazines. And, of course, once in a while, people I knew would be featured in their pages.

But, ultimately, I must confess that I enjoyed seeing beautiful women in striking outfits that you'd never actually see on the streets; the paparazzi pages were a good way of seeing what went on at parties without having to actually attend them; and the articles, targeted at women's neuroses, problems and sexual conundrums, were a fascinating insight into female psychology. (I've learned more useful tips about sex from Cosmopolitan than from Maxim, for the simple reason that the former teaches women how to please men, which is valuable information I can then helpfully pass on to my partner.)

1995 is not a terribly long time ago, but seven years in the publishing business is an epochal length of time, and any magazine that can last that long is immediately worthy of note. It's not at all surprising that the big three then are the big three now: it's not a matter of monopoly or oligarchy, but the simple fact that a glossy magazine takes years to recoup its initial investment, which is always much more than anyone thinks; and one almost always needs the backing of a large corporate group to keep throwing money into the pit until revenues of any sort begin to return.

Mega has remained the most constant, Metro the most eclectic, and Preview the most schizophrenic. I spent a fascinating week going through the old issues almost as though I were reliving the last seven years in a blur of images and skimmed-through text.

MEGA
MEGA Style Icon 2001
MaiMai Cojuangco
viva vintage
What's old is new again
gifts that thrill
Choices galore! Gadgets too!
BIG CITY BLUES
A New Yorker recalls

Reserved for later

The more specific comments about the editorial aspects of the magazines I shall reserve for an article to be published in the future, perhaps upon the event of my death, or if I decide to commit career suicide. Meanwhile it will suffice to note that it is the tendency of any generation of writers to moan that they are the last bastions of literacy, and that the future holds nothing but a degeneracy of split infinitives and dangling modifiers.

I am no exception, of course, and will insist that the tide of writers that includes myself consists of the last proud members of a dying race. I'm sure that when Thelma Sioson San Juan, Sari Yap, Floy Quintos, Jo-Ann Maglipon, Lorna Kalaw Tirol, Krip Yuson, Pete Lacaba, etc., infiltrated the newsrooms they felt the same way. Perhaps so did Greg Brillantes and Nick Joaquin in their time, and so on.

The closest I will veer to the incendiary subject of our writers' evolution or degeneration will be a couple of tentative observations regarding editorial standards and policies.

I am biased, as many might guess, toward the old school, which has nothing to do with using manual typewriters instead of computers (I harbor no love for those ancient Underwoods and Remingtons, which never failed to take skin off my knuckles when they weren't busy entangling their ribbons into an inky morass).

But I remember the days when there were such things as fact-checkers; when editors didn't hesitate to reject substandard copy and demand that it be rewritten, instead of being cloying grateful that the writer actually submitted something 10 days after deadline; and when editorial copy went through line editing, copy editing and proofreading before it reached the layout artist's desk. Today, I've seen writers type directly into the "story-editor" function of the layout program.

The trouble is, I see no incentive for the industry to behave otherwise. The lifestyle sections of the major newspapers are filled with the ramblings of young socialites whose family lineage, coupled with an attractive column photograph, is reason enough for them to be read, and apparently can stand in for writing ability, and such antiquated qualities as informed opinion or critical judgment. (There are exceptions to the rule: Some pretty faces can write; this reinforces my belief in a fundamental injustice of the world.)

The centerpiece

Feature articles, once the purgatory assigned to fledgling writers, now constitute the centerpiece of the style and culture sections; the rest of the space is taken up by endless paparazzi photos. And the public swallows them eagerly, like economy-class passengers absurdly grateful for the little bottles of cheap red wine with screw-top lids.

So why would any editor try and demand more from their writers, or try and give more to their readers, unless they are absolute masochists?

It is fortunate, then, that the industry does have its fair share of masochists: There does exist a handful of editors, all too few, who still meticulously pore over every word of text, who go running to the dictionary to double-check the meaning of a word, who resort to Fowler's to look up some obscurity of grammar when in doubt.

But I'm being facetious when I use the word "masochism" (although the image of Jo-Ann Maglipon trying to erase a speck of dust from the film transparencies does come to mind). What an editor needs, more than anything, is a sense of integrity. But this is not as simple or simplistic as it sounds. The lack of editorial standards is not just due to a lack of integrity on the part of many editors, but a lack of public belief in and demand for the integrity of editors.

Futile exercise

If the reading public is equally willing to spend its money on magazines spread thinly with insubstantial articles in bad prose, riddled with grammatical and spelling mistakes, even an editor of integrity would be tempted to give in to the futility of throwing pearls before swine if the latter can't tell the difference between South Sea and those made of tapioca. It has come to the point when I myself have begun to question the editorial policies of some magazines.

In my time, the difference between an article and what was called "advertorial" was very clear: The latter, though it might include text that sounded rather like an article, was a paid advertisement, and pains were taken to delineate it from the editorial content; it was put in a box, marked "advertorial" or "promotion," and was usually in a markedly different typeface than that used by the magazine.

metro
Our kind of woman
BODY calendar
ARE YOU GAME?
• How to join, how much you can win
• Why Pinoys are hooked

So is it my imagination, or are more and more advertorials masquerading as articles? Why is it that a beach resort, which provided the location for a fashion shoot, gets a rave review in the succeeding issue? Why do magazines owned by certain companies, affiliated with particular television stations or media groups, feature the talents associated with the latter while remaining curiously silent about others? And what of the strange affiliation between certain magazines and certain advertising groups, an affiliation so close that sometimes they share the same owners?

Other writers, many of them younger than me, laugh condescendingly at my naivete and tell me to grow up: It's not a conspiracy theory, they explain, it's just about making money; and a single article which is missing a comma or two matters little in the multimillion-peso game of passing money from one pocket into the other. Go write the Great Filipino Novel, and strew your integrity there; but this is media, don't you understand? The great information spider's web, the creation of desire for consumer goods, the power brokerage of public opinion.

The media can make or break people with praise or scandal; they can make or break us by pulling or placing advertising. It's the world of big money and loaded decks, and no one gives a second thought about your critical judgment or whether you accidentally italicized a French word that is in English usage, or have an awkward double genitive.

A GLOSSY/ p.F2

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78 Get gorgeous outfits to end the year with a bang
Over 428 fashion & beauty Christmas must-haves

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- Technical knowledge on any Macromedia product or previous experience on products of a similar nature in a commercial environment is required
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- Hands-on experience on any or all of the following platforms: Windows (Win 95, 98, 2000, NT), Macintosh (OS 8 and above), UNIX (Linux, Solaris or HP/UX)
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INVITES APPLICANTS FOR

ACCOUNTING MANAGERS

Qualifications : A Certified Public Accountant; with at least three (3) years managerial experience in all facets of accounting management; excellent communication skills; and able to relate with all levels in the organization; proficient in computer software applications; and not more than 35 years old.

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION OFFICERS

Qualifications : One (1) year managerial experience in property development and building administration; licensed mechanical or electrical engineer, or graduate of mechanical/electrical engineering; computer literate; excellent communication skills; and not more than 30 years old, preferably female.

NURSE

Qualifications : Registered Nurse; one (1) year hospital experience; preferably with ER assignment; excellent communication skills; and able to relate with all levels in the organization; computer literate; and not over 28 years old.

DISPLAY OFFICER

Qualifications : Graduate of Bachelor of Fine Arts, a major in Interior Design will be an advantage; two (2) years related supervisory experience in art-related works preferably with a retail business enterprise; computer literate; excellent communication skills; and not more than 28 years old.

MALL SECRETARY

Qualifications : Graduate of any four-year business management course; one (1) year related work experience; computer literate; excellent communication skills; and not more than 28 years old.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS

[Human Resources, Accounting, Treasury]

Qualifications : Graduate of any four-year course; computer literate; above average communication skills; and not more than 25 years old.

Interested parties may send their resume with 2" x 2" ID Photo to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER
SHOPPING CENTER MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
4/F Benguet Center, 12 ADB Avenue cor. Julia Vargas St.
Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila
E-MAIL ADDRESS : hr@smsupermalls.com

An opportunity to join one of the fast growing independent oil company in the Philippines...

This lubricant specialist is in need of the following personnel for its next exciting growth phase in the market.

- **Ads & Promo Officer**
  Male or Female Single; 24 to 30 years old; Graduate of Advertising or any Business course; With minimum of 2 years work experience.
- **Technical Services Engineer**
  Male, 27 to 35 years old; Graduate of B.S. Mechanical Engineering with license preferably; With at least 3 years minimum experience as Technical Personnel in oil and automotive industry.
- **Packaging Supervisor & Blending/ Filling Supervisor**
  Male, Married or Single; BS Mechanical, Industrial or Chemical Engineering Graduate; Preferably with work experience; Willing to work on extended hours; Can handle and supervise people.
- **Logistics Supervisor**
  Male or Female; 24 to 30 years old; Graduate of any Business course; With 2 years work experience.
- **Purchasing Assistant**
  Female; Single; Between 23 to 28 years old; Graduate of any Business course preferably Accounting; At least one year experience in Purchasing; Must be independent and can work within minimum supervision.
- **Service Center Specialist**
  Male or Female; Marketing graduate or any business course; Minimum of 2 years selling experience in the transport/automotive industry
- **Marketing Secretary & Receptionist**
  Female; Graduate of any Business course; With good written and verbal communication skills; Computer literate
- **Credit & Collection Clerk**
  Female; Single; 21-25 years old; Accounting graduate
- **Computer Programmer**
  Male; Single; Graduate of Computer Programming or any Computer course; Willing to work on extended hours
- **Safety & Security Officer**
  Male; 25-35 years old; Engineering graduate; Preferably certified officer; Dynamic and aggressive; With experience in handling petroleum plant terminal

Please send your resumé with 2x2 ID picture to Ms. Cristine B. Mirabueno of Chemical Alloy Corporation at Room 1701 Jollibee Centre, San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center or email thru mirahbs@yahoo.com.

Philippine Nautical and Technological College

Dasmariñas, Cavite

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL FOR HIRING IN MAY FOR SY 2002-2003:

- **Full-time/part-time Instructors/Lecturers for the following college subjects:**
  - ☐ Mathematics
  - ☐ English
  - ☐ Computer
  - ☐ Science
  - ☐ Physical Education (P.E.)

  Applicants must be:
  - ☐ Holders of relevant Bachelor's Degree
  - ☐ Of good moral character
  - ☐ With at least 1 year college teaching experience
- **Full time/part-time Instructors for BS Marine Engineering & Marine Transportation Course**
  - ☐ At least 4th Engineer or 3rd Mate
  - ☐ With at least 1 year teaching experience
  - ☐ Preferably with MA units or have attended IMO MC 6.09
- **Full time/part-time Instructors for Hotel & Restaurant Management Course**
  - ☐ Graduate of BS Hotel & Rest. Management/Administration course
  - ☐ With at least 1 year experience in hotel or vessel *or* teaching experience in HRM course
- **Registrar**
  - ☐ Graduate of any business course
  - ☐ Preferably with MA Units
  - ☐ With at least 1 year experience as a Registrar
  - ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
- **HRD Manager**
  - ☐ Graduate of BS Psychology, preferably a Psychometrician
  - ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
  - ☐ With at least 1 year experience as HRD Manager/Supervisor
- **Secretaries**
  - ☐ Graduate of any bachelor's degree
  - ☐ With good oral/written communication and organizational skills
- **Administrative Clerks**
  - ☐ Graduate of a bachelor's degree
  - ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
- **Accounting Clerks**
  - ☐ Graduate of BS Accounting
  - ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
- **Librarian**
  - ☐ Graduate of BS Library Science
  - ☐ With good oral and written communication skills
- **Account Executive**
  - ☐ Graduate of any bachelor's degree
  - ☐ With good oral/written communication skills
- **Maintenance Supervisor**
  - ☐ Graduate of BS Electrical, Mechanical or Civil Engineering Course
  - ☐ With at least 1 year experience in the same capacity
- **Maintenance Personnel**
  - ☐ Graduate of any 2-year technical-vocational course

Qualified applicants may submit or send their application letter,
comprehensive resume, transcript of records and
2 pcs. recent 2"x2" picture to Jane Romero
at PPCNI Bldg. 1736 Dian St., Palanan, Makati City.

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128 DREAM FOUNTAIN CORPORATION

Area Sales Supervisor

- Between 24 to 30 years old
- Graduate of any business-related course
- 2 to 3 years experience in retail operation is preferred
- Can motivate people, with strong leadership and excellent communication skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Must be result oriented
- Computer literate (Windows Based)

Management Trainee

- Between 21 to 27 years old
- Graduate of any business-related course
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be customer oriented
- Must have initiative; ability and sustained interest in selling
- Preferably with experience on selling fashion apparel and foot wear products
- Possesses pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila

Sales Consultant

- Male/Female
- At least 2 years in any business-related course
- At least 5'4" for Female and 5'6" for Male
- Must possess a pleasing personality
- With good fashion sense, dynamic and creative
- Willing to be assigned anywhere within Metro Manila

Boutique Supervisor

- Male/Female, 20 to 27 years old
- At least 5'2" for Female and 5'5" for Male
- Must have good communication skills
- Must be customer oriented
- Must have initiative, ability and sustained interest in selling
- Preferably with experience in selling fashion apparel and footwear products
- Must possess a pleasing personality
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila

128 DREAM FOUNTAIN CORPORATION
7 Agno Street, Brgy. Doña Josefa, Sta. Mesa Heights,
Quezon City, 1113 Philippines
Fax Number (632) 712-0338

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MANAGERIAL

RAMCAR GROUP OF COMPANIES

The NO. 1 Battery Manufacturer in the Philippines
is in immediate need of the following:

PROCESS & ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMIST

- ☐ Preferably Male, 22-30 years old.
- ☐ Graduate of B.S. Chemical Engineering or Chemistry.
- ☐ Experience not required but an advantage.
- ☐ Will be responsible for process samples analysis, environmental sampling and analysis.
- ☐ Must be willing to be assigned in Marilao, Bulacan.

ELECTRICAL/ ELECTRONICS ENGINEER

- ☐ Male, 25-35 years old.
- ☐ Graduate of B.S. Electrical or Electronics & Communications Engineering.
- ☐ Must be familiar with Siemens PLC/Automation & Drives; computer literate.
- ☐ Will be handling electrical/electronic work for the machine building project; design/programming of PLC, cost estimate and documentation.
- ☐ Place of assignment: Quezon City

CIVIL ENGINEER

- ☐ Male, 25-35 years old.
- ☐ Graduate of B.S. Civil Engineering. License not required.
- ☐ Must be willing to take the night/graveyard shift schedule.
- ☐ With experience on road/subdivision construction, building and equipment maintenance.
- ☐ Willing to be based in Sta Maria, Bulacan.

ACCOUNTANTS/ ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT & CLERKS

- ☐ Male / Female, 20-28 years old.
- ☐ Graduate of B.S. Accountancy; open to both CPA and non-CPA.
- ☐ With or without experience; fresh graduates are welcome to apply.
- ☐ Must be computer literate.
- ☐ Place of assignment: Quezon City

THESE ARE ALL **URGENT** REQUIREMENTS. Interested applicants are requested to apply personally with their resumé and credentials to:

**THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
Ramcar Center
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman
Quezon City**

Red Ribbon BakeShop

...offers CAREER OPPORTUNITIES to all SERVICE ORIENTED INDIVIDUALS for its CONTINUOUS EXPANSION PROGRAM

MARKETING SPECIALIST

- ☑ Female, single between 22 to 28 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ☑ Must be personable with good interpersonal skills
- ☑ Must have at least 3 months to 1 year relevant work experience in the same capacity in the food industry set up or in Sales/Marketing
- ☑ Must have excellent communication skills and results-oriented
- ☑ Willing to do client calls and/or field work

SECRETARY

- ☑ Female, between 25 to 30 years old
- ☑ Graduate of any 4-year course
- ☑ Must have at least 1 to 2 years related work experience
- ☑ Articulate, results-oriented and has keen eye for details
- ☑ Must be computer literate
- ☑ Must have hands-on experience in performing various secretarial functions such as the preparation of routine business correspondence, keeping appointments, typing, filing, record keeping, and other related duties
- ☑ Knowledge in preparation of contracts of lease, project management and construction contracts—an advantage

ENGINEERS

- ☑ Male, between 22 to 30 years old
- ☑ Must be a graduate of BSEE/ME preferably licensed
- ☑ Must have at least 6 months to 1 year relevant work experience in the same capacity in the food industry or manufacturing set up
- ☑ Results-oriented and computer literate
- ☑ Must have excellent leadership skills and can effectively work under pressure
- ☑ Must be willing to do field work and knows how to drive

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Quezon City/Manila/Pasig/Parañaque/
San Fernando, Pampanga Areas

- ☑ Male/Female, between 22 to 28 years old
- ☑ Graduates of BS HRM or any business related courses
- ☑ Must have 3 months to 1 year hands-on experience in the same capacity in any food business set-up
- ☑ Must have excellent oral and written communications and interpersonal skills
- ☑ Must have excellent leadership skills, analytical and results-oriented
- ☑ Can effectively work under pressure with less supervision, well organized and cost efficient
- ☑ Customer-service oriented and with mature disposition
- ☑ Willing to undergo comprehensive training and work on shifts
- ☑ Must be computer literate

Qualified applicants are requested to apply personally or send comprehensive resumé with current picture to:

Red Ribbon Bakeshop, Inc.
Employee Care Services-Marketing Group
No. 1180 - 2F Doña Beatriz Building, 13th Street, New Manila, Quezon City
(Walk-in schedule - Thursday and Friday from 9am to 3pm)

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

PEOPLESUPPORT

PeopleSupport is a leading contact center that provides customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP, and phone. Our global network is composed of corporate headquarters in L.A., US operations center in St. Louis, Missouri, sales offices strategically placed in major cities in the US, and of course, the Asia Pacific Headquarters in Manila, Philippines.

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eReps™
are PeopleSupport's customer service representatives who provide online customer service via email, chat, voice-over-IP and phone on a 24x7 basis. QUALIFICATIONS: Four year college degree. Customer service orientation. Excellent English communication skills. Internet savvy. Willing to work shifts. Good typing skills.

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Those who are looking to work as an eRep on a short-term basis.

GeNeRaL eReps™

College graduates with strong customer service orientation.

traVeL eReps™

2+ years' experience in airline reservations (preferably international), or hotel/car rental reservations.

technicaL eReps™

College graduates from Computer Science/IT courses (or any related degree/background).

BusiNeSs Analyst

Develop and generate ad hoc, management and operational reports on forecast accuracy, SLA reporting, schedule adherence, productivity and utilization. Handle Workforce Management system implementation and maintenance and conduct system training.

REQUIREMENTS: *2 years experience in business/systems analysis. Experience specifically in Workforce Management software or CRM solution is preferred. Understanding of contact center business environment. Analytical and management reporting and planning background. Excel in analyzing and adjusting work procedures for maximum efficiency. Excellent communication skills, team player. Strong working knowledge of Microsoft Access, Word, Excel and Powerpoint*

We offer a dynamic work environment, casual dress code, professional development and training, and a competitive compensation and benefits package.

EMAIL YOUR RESUMES TO:
applicants@peoplesupport.com
12TH - 14TH FL. PHILAMLIFE TOWER, 8767 PASEO DE ROXAS, SALCEDO VILLAGE, MAKATI

NAVITAIRE™

Technology that liberates

Navitaire was launched from PRA Solutions, Via World Network, and Open Skies to combine the airline and travel expertise of all three companies into one, NAVITAIRE. Its three offices are located in Minneapolis, Salt Lake, Sydney, and Makati City.

As the name stands for, "navigating IT for airlines and E-business," NAVITAIRE is committed to provide information systems solutions designed to liberate companies from their outdated platforms and the industry's archaic standards.

As we progress, we are inviting qualified individuals to fill in the following key positions for our Manila-based operations:

HR SPECIALISTS

- *to participate and administer human resource programs & practices, particularly in the areas recruitment and/or training*
- *to participate in the implementation of company policies, rules, & regulations*
- with Bachelor's degree in Psychology, Behavioral Sciences, or any related courses
- preferably with 2-4 years experience in recruitment and/or training in a supervisory capacity
- requires prior knowledge of principles and practices of Human Resources
- capable of relating to individuals at all levels
- sensitive to corporate needs, employee goodwill, and the public image
- have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products
- can work independently as well as in a team setting
- with strong interpersonal and persuasion skills

REVENUE ASSOCIATES

- to perform audit review, contract entry, and various tasks related to Business process services

- must possess a University degree from reputable schools and with good academic record
- must have good analytical skills and the ability to research and troubleshoot complicated audit matters
- able to navigate audit system conversation 'flow' with speed and accuracy
- must have good grasp of Microsoft Office Products
- with outstanding customer service orientation
- can work independently as well as in a team setting
- with excellent oral & written communication skills
- previous airline experience is a plus, but not required

BPO MANAGER

- *responsible for analyzing and directing related activities of the organization with supervisory responsibilities*
- *responsible for initiation and completion of development projects on-time and within the budget*
- *deals with development and resolutions of contract agreements*
- *supervises numerous teams in a department*
- must possess a University degree in the disciplines of Business and Computer courses
- previous airline revenue accounting or travel agency experience is a plus
- typically requires 4-7 years of related experience
- requires the ability to collect, analyze and report data
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- with strong goal-setting and supervisory skills
- preferably with some travel experience

PROGRAMMERS/ ANALYSTS

- to participate in the development and maintenance of application software components (i.e. coding and system testing)

- with working knowledge of any of the following languages: ***Unix, C, C++, JAVA & Cobol programming***
- must possess a University Degree in the disciplines of Computer Science, Mathematics or Engineering courses
- with good academic record preferably from any of these reputable schools:
  ATENEO, DLSU, MAPUA, UP & UST
- must be self-directed and have strong leadership presence and business acumen
- with excellent oral and written communication skills

We offer a very attractive industry-standard compensation schedule as well as travel & training opportunities abroad.

Interested applicants may send their resume, recent photo, and official transcript of records to:
**The Human Resources Department
NAVITAIRE
16th Floor, Philamlife Tower Building,
8767 Paseo de Roxas Street, Makati City
Fax No: 757-0404
Email Address:** HR.Manila@navitaire.com **(text form only)
Note: Applicants with complete requirements will be given priority.
We will respond only to qualified applicants.**

MANAGERIAL

MALAYAN INSURANCE

MALAYAN INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.
A YGC Company

is in need of:

CASH MANAGER

☑ Male/Female, not over 40 years old
☑ Graduate of a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management, Accounting or Finance
☑ With 2-4 years related experience in a supervisory/managerial level in a service oriented company
☑ With financial analysis skills
☑ Preferably with knowledge in insurance
☑ Must have excellent communication skills

QUALITY SERVICE OFFICER

☑ Male/Female, not over 28 years old
☑ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering
☑ Preferably with one (1) year experience in a service or manufacturing environment
☑ Must have excellent communication skills
☑ Computer literate
☑ Customer Service Oriented

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

☑ Male/Female, not over 28 years old
☑ Graduate of any business course
☑ Preferably with one (1) year experience in non-life insurance
☑ Must have excellent communication skills
☑ Computer literate
☑ Customer Service Oriented

AUDIT SUPERVISOR

☑ Male/Female, not over 30 years old
☑ Graduate of BSC-Accounting, must be a CPA
☑ With at least two (2) years supervisory experience in audit
☑ Must have excellent communication skills
☑ Customer Service Oriented

You may send your application letter, comprehensive resumé with recent 2" x 2" picture and transcript of records to:

THE PERSONNEL OFFICER
Human Resources Department
Malayan Insurance Company, Inc.
5th Floor, Yuchengco Building
484 Quintin Paredes Street, Binondo, Manila
E-mail address: malayan@malayan.com
Website: http://www.malayan.com

FEP PRINTING CORPORATION

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TREASURY MANAGER (Code: TM)

- CPA
- With 5 years managerial experience in accounting/treasury/finance
- Proficient in accounting softwares
- Ouput-oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Able to relate with people from all levels in the organization

COMPTROLLER (Code: COM)

- CPA
- At least 5 years managerial experience in accounting, financial analysis, taxation, SEC regulations
- Experience in setting up and supervising systems on financial and accounting controls
- Output-oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Able to relate with people from all levels in the organization

INTERNAL AUDITOR (Code: IA)

- CPA
- Must have at least 5 years managerial auditing experience from a manufacturing or auditing firm
- Output-oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Able to relate with people from all levels in the organization

OFFICE MANAGER (Code: OM)

- CPA an advantage
- At least 3 years managerial experience in accounting, treasury and administration
- Must be able to introduce new ideas on planning, systems and procedures, internal control and policies
- Output-oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Able to relate with people from all levels in the organization

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE ANALYST (Code: APA)

- Accounting graduate
- With solid accounting experience in medium to large manufacturing firm
- Familiar with BIR regulations
- Computer literate
- Honest, analytical and systematic
- Willing to work long hours
- Can work with minimum supervision

AUDIT STAFF (Code: AS)

- Accounting graduate
- With solid auditing experience in medium to large manufacturing firm
- Honest, analytical and systematic
- Willing to work long hours
- Can work with minimum supervision

PREPRESS PRODUCTION SPECIALIST (Code: PPS)

- College graduate with background in computers and/or fine arts
- Familiar with Macintosh/PC environments and Local Area Networks
- Familiar with graphics applications (PageMaker, CorelDraw, Freehand, Photoshop)
- Previous experience in a digital prepress environment an advantage (PostScript image setting, File Preflight)

PRPRESS STAFF (Code: PS)

- Male
- Graduate of Computer Science/Engineering, ECE
- Familiar with Macintosh/PC environments

MIS STAFF (Code: MIS)

- Preferably Computer Science/Engineering, ECE graduate
- Familiar in setting up and maintaining PC hardware and software
- Familiar in set-up and maintenance of Local and Wide Area Networks
- Background in Linux, Mac OS and/or database maintenance (SQL) will be an advantage

Mail resumé with recent 2x2 picture to:

HRD (Code: ______)
FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo
Makati City

Southville International School

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Take the challenge of joining a dynamic educational institution as it strives to assume leadership in the academe.

For schoolyear 2002-2003, we are actively seeking for faculty and staff who are committed to develop learners to become movers of society.

PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS

- College grad. preferably with specialization in Early Childhood Education
- Preferably with specialization in Physical Education, Music and Art
- Must not be more than 30 yrs. old

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Graduate of a four-year course pref. related to **NURSING**
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- With pleasing personality, not more than 30 years old

HOUSEKEEPING COORDINATOR

- College Level
- Pref. with at least 1 yr. supervisory exp. in Bldg. Maintenance / Cleanliness
- Can work with minimum supervision and is willing to work beyond office hours

COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS

- Computer
- Human Resource Management
- Finance
- Education

GRADE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS

- College graduate pref. with education units
- Specialization in any of the following subjects is a must: Business Math(Accounting/Economics), Social Studies, World History, **MANDARIN/CHINESE**, Physical Education, English, ESL, Reading, Math, Science, Filipino, Computer Education, Physical Education, Art, Music, Values Education,
- Preferably with graduate studies in education
- Must not be more than 40 years old

LIBRARIAN & LIBRARY STAFF

- Graduate of BS Library Science
- Pref. with at least one year experience in a school setting and/or MA degree in Library Science

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT HEAD

- College graduate with education units and with specialization in English, preferably with MA degree

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS

- Psychology or Counseling graduate with at least one yr. experience in an educational setting
- With leadership qualities

S.I.S. offers a good compensation and benefits package.
We guarantee your continued professional and personal growth.

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resume', transcript of records and recent 2x2 photo or come for testing with the required credentials on February 23, March 2 & 9 2002.
The test will start promptly at 8:00 AM.

Human Resource Office, Southville International School
1281 Tropical Avenue corner Luxembourg St., BF International, Las Piñas City
Tel. No. 820-8702/03 or 825-6374 local 106

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OPERATIONS/ BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/ MARKETING

Regional Managers
Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Male, not more than 45 years old. Must possess good communication skills motivate people under his/ her supervision. Must at least 5 years work experience in a similar capacity.

Business Coordination Manager
Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Male/ Female, not more than 40 years old. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his/ her supervision. Must have 2-3 years work experience in a similar capacity.

Subscribers Development Manager
Graduate of Economics, Marketing or any business course. Male/ Female not more than 40 years old. Must possess good communication skills and can motivate people under his supervision. Must have at least 2-3 years work experience in similar capacity.

Training Officers
Graduate of any four- year course preferably Mass Communication, Education or any Business course. Male/ Female, 21- 30 years old. Excellent in oral and written communication. Good in public speaking. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to be assigned in Metro Manila, provincial and/ or depressed areas.

Business Coordinators
Graduate of any business course with related work experience. Male/ Female, 21- 35 years old. Proficient in oral and written communication. Computer literate, flexible and can handle work under pressure. Willing to do field works.

Customer Relations Staff
Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course. Male/ Female, 21- 28 years old. Preferably with relevant work experience in customer service, handling customer concerns. Must be computer literate and proficient in oral and written communication.

Corporate/Legal Officer/In- house Lawyer
Male/ Female, not more than 40 years old, with relevant work experience in corporate lawyering, litigation, handling of public offerings, taxation and related fields. Must be a certified lawyer.

Purchasing Staff
Male/ Female. Graduate of Civil Engineering or any four year course. Knowledge in canvassing construction materials is an advantage. Must be computer literate.

Executive Assistant
Female, 24- 30 years old. Graduate of any four year course. With pleasing personality and excellent communication skills. At least 1- 2 years related experience. Willing to work long hours and can work under pressure. Proficient in Windows- Microsoft applications.

Construction Project Managers
Civil Engineering graduate with project management experience.

Field Auditors
Male/ Female, not more than 40 years old. Graduate of BS Accountancy and must be CPA. With at least 2 years relevant work experience.

Accounting Assistants/ Accounts Receivable Clerks/ Credit and Collection Clerks
Graduate of Accountancy with at least 2-3 years relevant work experience. Highly computer literate. Can meet deadlines and work under pressure. Willing to work overtime.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Programmers/ Systems Analyst
Graduate of Computer Science/ Computer Engineering/ Electronics and Communications Engineering. Male, not more than 27 years old. With at least 3 years relevant work experience in the following applications- SQL Server 7 or 2000, Microsoft Access 2000 or XP Visual Basic, Internet Development, JAVA, ASP, and Computer Programming a major plus. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours.

Web Developers
Graduate of Computer Science or Computer Engineering. Male, not more than 27 years old. With at least 2-3 years extensive experience in web development using Microsoft Technologies: ASP, HS, BV Script, Access SQL Server, Visual Interdev/ Ultradev. Preferably with strong knowledge in HTML and Java Script Hard coding as well as Cross-Browser Development. Must be a team player and can work under pressure. Willing to work long hours.

ADS & PROMOTION/ PUBLICATIONS

Advertising & Promo Assistant
Female, 25-30 years old. Graduate of Mass Communication or Communication Arts major in Advertising with related work experience. Preferably with adept knowledge in design promotional strategies and lay-outs. Highly computer literate and can work long hours.

Interested applicants may apply personally or send thru mail their application letter and comprehensive resume with 2x2 picture and transcript of records.

RISE GROUP OF COMPANIES
Human Resources Department
Suite 1906 Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center
EDSA cor., Ortigas Ave., Ortigas Complex, Quezon City
Tel. nos.: (02) 687-1737, 867-2917, 687-0941

We are a foreign bank in need of an ambitious and hardworking individual for the position:

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- With a minimum experience of 3 years in banking or financial and audit works; preferably with a multi-national bank;
- Extensive knowledge in regulatory/legal requirements, specially in Bangko Sentral regulations;
- Graduate of Accounting Course; preferably a Certified Public Accountant;
- Good moral character;
- Proficiency in oral and written communications.

Interested applicants should send their resumés and contact number not later than February 26, 2002 to:

P.O. Box 3032, MCPO 1270
Makati City

REMAX

A company engaged in supply and service maintenance of various information technology products and systems is in search of qualified individuals for the position of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Card/Access Control/Broadband Products)

- B.S. Electronics and Communications Engineering, Computer Engineering graduate
- Male/female, 26-35 years old
- Computer literate
- Result oriented, hardworking, self-motivated with good presentation skills
- Must have above-average oral and written communications skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, willing to have a rewarding career in sales

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(Facilities Support Systems)

- Bachelor's degree in EE or ME courses
- Male/Female, 26-35 years old
- Computer literate
- Must have at least one year exposure in selling and marketing Interruptible Power Systems (UPS), Voltage Regulator and Precision aircon equipment
- Result oriented, hardworking, self-motivated with good presentation skills
- Must have above-average oral and written communications skills
- Strong interpersonal skills, willing to have a rewarding career in sales

PROGRAMMERS

- Bachelor's degree in ECE, Computer Engineering or Computer Science
- Male/Female, 26-28 years old
- Proficient in C-Language
- Self starter, resourceful and highly motivated
- Knowledgeable in microprocessor features and concept

PRODUCT SUPPORT ENGINEER

- Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering w/ license
- Male 26-35 years old
- Knowledgeable in precision aircon equipment
- Must have good communication skills in own language and has the ability to read & write technical English, electrical & electronic schematic diagram
- Computer literate

INTERNAL AUDITOR

- Bachelor's Degree in Accountancy, CPA
- Female, single, 25-30 years old
- With 3 years experience in an auditing firm
- Computer literate
- Result oriented, self-motivated and with ability to work effectively with all levels of management
- Possesses above average communication skills

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing Management or its equivalent
- Female, single, 24-28 years old
- With strong analytical skills
- Excellent presentation skills w/ high computer literacy
- Result oriented and self-motivated
- Possesses above average communication skills.

Interested parties may send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, recent 2x2 picture by post, e-mail or may apply personally from 8:30 am - 5:30 pm Mondays through Fridays at:

REMAX INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Human Resources Department
7/F All Seasons Bldg., 112 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. 8123595 loc 111-113
e-mail: hrd@remax.com.ph
You may also visit our website:
www.remax.com.ph

WU KONG (S) PTE., LTD.

Blk. 25 A&B Phase IV, PEZA, Rosario, Cavite **Tel. No. (046) 437-0888/ 437-0805**

Established in 1995, Wu Kong Singaporean Private Limited is an ISO 9002 certified company located on a 17 hectare lot in PEZA, Rosario, Cavite, Philippines. We are one of the progressive, fast growing and largest group of companies in Cavite which is engaged in the manufacture and export of pre-fabricated wood, steel and glass used in constructing residential houses. As part of our continuing growth, we would like to invite competent individuals to occupy the following positions:

Production Team Leaders

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of any four or five year course, preferably Engineering
- With at least one year exposure as team leader in a manufacturing and ISO certified company
- Can deliver results and has the ability to communicate in all levels of the organization
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

Company Nurse

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old
- Must be licensed
- With at least six months experience as company nurse
- Willing to work on shifting schedule

HR Staff

- Female, 22 to 26 years old
- Graduate of Psychology or Journalism
- With experience in newsletter lay outing and publishing
- Must be computer literate with knowledge in ADOBE and COREL

Office Staff

- Female, 22 to 26 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering or Business Courses
- With or without experience
- Must be Computer literate

Interested applicants may apply in person from Mondays to Saturdays, 8 AM to 4 PM with your resume or bio data and recent 2x2 picture for exam and interview or send it to our Email address precut@pacific.net.ph

Human Resources Department
Look for Angela or Genievive.

A PRESTIGIOUS AND LEADING RESEARCH AGENCY AFFILIATED WITH THE LARGEST CUSTOMIZED RESEARCH ORGANIZATION IN THE WORLD INVITES AGGRESSIVE AND SELF-MOTIVATED INDIVIDUAL TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POST:

STATISTICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR

☑ Must possess a graduate degree in Statistics/ Applied Statistics or graduate degree in a course with heavy emphasis on Statistics such as Operations Research or Econometrics.

☑ Experience with SAS programming is essential.

☑ Knowledge of various bivariate and multivariate statistical techniques, including factor analysis, analysis of variance, multiple regression, logit, discriminant function analysis, cluster analysis, and conjoint analysis.

☑ Must be a good communicator and be able to write and present statistical findings about complex subject matter in general business terms.

INTERESTED PARTIES MAY SEND THEIR RESUMÉ TO:

The Human Resources Manager
10th Floor, OMM-Citra Building
San Miguel Avenue, Ortigas Center
Pasig City

YOUR CONNECTION TO BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER JOBS.
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer and visit it online at www.jobmarketonline.com
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOBMarket ONLINE

MOLDEX REALTY MARKETING INCORPORATED

WE WANT YOU!

All it takes is a knack for selling, a gut feel for entrepreneurship. Of course, a positive disposition and strong team spirit are also musts.

ASST. VICE PRESIDENT
FOR IN-HOUSE SALES

At least five years experience in real estate selling, and an organization of sales network members (ideally, at least 5 competent marketing directors and/or sales directors, each with at least 10 sales executives /agents)

MARKETING DIRECTORS

Male or female, with a ready group of sales network members, with at least three (3) years of sales experience in real estate.

SALES DIRECTORS

With extensive experience in sales, preferably in real estate. Has an existing pool of network members. Fast-paced, goal oriented, with entrepreneurial skills and can work under pressure.

SALES EXECUTIVES

Male or female, 18 years old to 70! Students, housewives, teachers, retirees who are driven, self-starters are invited. You can make as much as 10,000 with one sale!

BROKERS, MARKETING PARTNERS AND REAL ESTATE PRACTITIONERS

Filipino/Chinese brokers specializing in horizontal/ vertical projects.

Property Investment Advisers

Female, between 21-25 yrs. old, single. If you can communicate well, project confidence and look gorgeous, come see us for this position. You may be the image model we need!

Just show us your credentials-curriculum vitae, network profile-and we're ready to talk business with you. You'll be happy with our monthly subsidy and benefits packages. We're extra generous too, with productive team members!

You'll be proud of **MOLDEX PROJECTS**: We cover low to high-end lots and house-and-lot packages, prime properties, first-class memorial parks and residential condominiums. What's more, **MOLDEX SUPPORT** equips you with sales and business training not offered by the others. Beyond financial rewards, **MOLDEX RECOGNITION** applauds your success with high visibility, prestige and ceremony.

For more information, visit or call us at MRMI,
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. corner 2048 Leveriza St., Pasay City
Tels. 832-7777 / 551-2201 or Telefax 551-0808
and ask for Lorelei or Carmel

PHILAM PROPERTIES

Take the challenge of joining a growing multinational real estate company as it strives to be at the forefront of property development and management.

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER (BOM)

- Will be responsible for the technical operations of all Philamlife buildings nationwide, including the 46-storey Philamlife Tower
- Must have a strong Chief Engineer's background preferably in a 5-star hotel industry
- Preferably P.M.E. of P.E.E.
- With at least 5-7 years engineering experience in high rise building
- With strong background in Fire Life Safety Systems and Computerized Energy Management Systems
- Experience in implementing Preventive Maintenance Program

SALES CONSULTANT (SC)	TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENGINEER (TSE)
• With at least 3 years experience in selling Club shares or strong sales experience in the hotel industry • Preferably with vast network and contacts • With very pleasing personality • Excellent interpersonal / communication skills • Mature , dynamic and hardworking	• With at least 3 years experience working as a building technician • With strong background in maintaining and troubleshooting building electro-mechanical systems and controls • Preferably M.E. / E.C.E. graduates • Familiar with machineries and equipment in a hotel or high-rise building • Will be responsible for attending to all emergency repairs and troubleshooting • Will be responsible in supervising and monitoring outsourced maintenance contractors

Qualified applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resume, transcript of records and recent 2 x 2 photo. Pls. affix the job code on the envelope.

The Recruitment Officer ; Philam Properties Corp. , 9th Floor Philamlife Tower, 8767 Paseo de Roxas , Makati City

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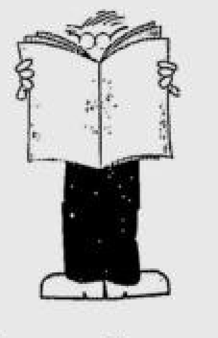


The best companies need the best people.

VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com

ASSISTANT MANAGER

A reputable, growth-oriented Service Company invites highly motivated, assertive, and result-oriented candidates with the following qualifications:

- Male, 30 to 40 years old
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineer
- Licensed Mechanical Engineer would be an advantage
- Must have experience in a service oriented organization
- Excellent in both oral and written communication skills
- Computer literate

Compensation Package:

Php180,960.00 annually plus other benefits

Qualified aspirants may send their application letters, comprehensive resumé, recently taken 2x2 ID pictures and credentials including photocopy of transcript of records to:

Box KA-014-02 CS
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
G/F Trinity Bldg., #636 T.M. Kalaw St.
Ermita, Manila
E-mail: jm1@inquirer.com.ph
Subject: CS

We are a world-class, fast-paced leather goods company whose name has become synonymous with high quality, hand-crafted products. Our client base includes the top 500 companies in the country. Our continuous growth has made it necessary for us to search for highly-motivated and values-oriented professionals to form part of our team.

You are our ideal candidate if you...

- possess the skills, personality and inclination for the particular job
- can perform optimally under pressure
- can work well with others as part of a team
- are results- oriented and can work with minimal supervision
- are computer literate and can communicate effectively
- are honest, dependable and trustworthy

PERSONNEL HR MANAGER

You should be responsible for the day-to-day administration of the department, implementation of HR systems, policies, and procedures, and coordinating employee activities. You should be a College graduate with a degree in HR, Behavioral Sciences or Psychology. Those with Masteral units will be preferred. 2-3 years relevant experience at the same level is required.

CORPORATE ACCOUNT OFFICERS (6)

You will be responsible for sourcing, qualifying and servicing corporate clients, and pursuing excellent customer care and service. You must possess strong interpersonal skills, an outgoing personality, and a good sense of humor. A college degree is required. At least 2 years experience in corporate or field sales is a must.

ASSISTANT MANAGER for MATERIALS CONTROL

You will be responsible for materials receipt and issuance, and inventory control. You must be resourceful, highly analytical, and systematic. You must have a college degree in Accounting or Industrial Engineering is required. At least 3-5 years experience in materials control / logistics management is required.

PRODUCTION PLANNER/SCHEDULER (2)

You will be responsible for production planning and scheduling, conducting time and motion studies, and productivity measurement and monitoring. You must have a college degree in Industrial Engineering, preferably with 1-2 years relevant experience.

SALES OPERATIONS ASSISTANT

You will be responsible for assisting the Marketing & Sales Manager in the management and supervision of our retail stores and outlets in the pursuit of excellent customer care and service. You must be organized, possess strong interpersonal, leadership and administrative skills; can understand and speak English fairly well. College graduate with a minimum of 2 years supervisory/ hands-on management experience is required

COMPANY NURSE/TELEPHONE OPERATOR

You will be responsible closely monitoring the medical health and safety of the company's workforce. You will also concurrently assist/act as a Telephone Operator.. You must be a Nursing graduate with a valid license.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

You will be responsible for handling Accounts Receivable-Corporate. Your duties will include sales invoicing, VAT preparation, and Account Analysis. You must possess a college degree in Accounting. 1-2 years experience is required.

INVENTORY CLERK

You will be responsible for documenting the inventory movement of custom and finished goods. You will also be expected to assist in Account Analysis. You must possess a college degree in Accounting. Fresh graduates can apply.

RETAIL SALES ASSISTANTS (2)

You will be responsible for promoting retail sales by serving the needs of our retail customers. You must possess a pleasing personality and have strong interpersonal skills. At least two years of college or equivalent is required.

Please send your resume with your latest 2X2 photo, a copy of transcript of records and expected salary to:

The Human Resources Manager
THE LEATHER COLLECTION, INC.
#15 Don Mariano Lim Industrial Complex
Alabang Zapote-Road, Las Piñas City
Fax No. 842-2204
E-mail: hrd@leather-collection.com
Website: www.leather-collection.com

A Big & Prestigious Chain of Supermarkets is in need of:

ADS & PROMOTIONS MANAGER

- Male/Female, preferably has managerial capacity
- Excellent in oral & written communication
- Extensive experience in conceptualization of sales promotion
- With strong background in media and public relations
- Must have excellent Customer/Human Relation skills

TRAINING MANAGER

- Male/female not over 40 years old with pleasing personality
- Has excellent communication skills
- At least with 5 years experience in the same field
- Must have extensive experience in training relative to Organization Development/Customer & Human Relations

Applicants may mail their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to:

P.O. Box 135
QUEZON CITY

Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise (CURE), Inc.

People and Finance Department (code: PMT)
Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprise (CURE), Inc.
Unit 302, Summit One Bldg.
530 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City 1501
Or E-mail: jobs@cureinc.com

Is in need of...

PART TIME MARKETING TRAINEES (CODE: PMT)

Requirements:
- Male or Female, at least 18 years old, high school level
- Outgoing, and with a pleasant disposition
- Talks well, and good looking

The Job:
- Will form part of our Events Team
- Will man our school tour, mall tour, other events sponsorship, i.e., concerts, parties, etc. in various parts of Luzon

Compensation:
- Hourly compensation
- Food and transportation allowance provided

Get the chance to EARN, and LEARN while having FUN ☺ ☺ ☺ !!! HURRY!!! Join our MARKETING TEAM now!!!

PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

Send your resumé in MS Word or Text format by email to executive_search@platinumplans.com (or) all-aces@platinumplans.com fax it to 6363596. You may also call 6372818 for a confidential discussion or text us at 0919-4513487. Alternatively, you can send your resumé by postal mail with your latest photo or visit us at 1007 B West Tektite Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Pasig

COMPTROLLER

As the comptroller of the company, you report to the SVP of Control and Operations Group, while you stir its financial direction, maximize the use of its fiscal resources and sustain its financial operation.

- Experienced in controllership functions involving accounting controls, financial analysis, systems procedures and general internal control.
- Can perform auditing and controlling functions to deal with the company's financial & marketing operations, like in dispensing compensations for sales, etc.
- Can write reports well & review reports critically.
- Can monitor disbursements, recommend procedures or procedural improvements in the cash flow operations of the company.
- Preferably with experience in companies engaged in financial services.
- At least 25 but not more than 45 years old
- BS Accounting degree holder, a CPA

Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Assisting the President in monitoring the company's present status in sales, marketing and support operations, you are tasked to reinforce the President's business plans with apt information and relevant data, strategic marketing forecasts, sound financial programs, and wise counsel to fine-tune the company's operation. The Assistant to the President will also provide administrative and executive assistance to the President.

- Graduate of a 4-year business or finance courses, preferably from a reputable school
- Adept in financial and business management
- Excellent communication skills, both oral and written
- Well versed in records management and office administration
- Willing to travel and work long hours
- Highly proficient in Windows/MS Office
- Male, 30 to 40 years old

Junior to Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

GROUP SALES GENERAL MANAGERS

It is your primary duty to organize a group of sales associates and to manage the activities of your group for a profitable operation. Your task is to recruit, develop and motivate a team of 5 to 10 Group Marketing Directors in order to generate the required volume of pre-need sales. You are also responsible for monitoring and facilitating efficient collection of accounts while managing individual, group or institutional sales to meet or surpass the sales quota.

- Very good in organizing and leading a group to deliver required sales production.
- A natural at selling products and services, particularly pre-need and insurance.
- Have drive, energy and enthusiasm as a sales-professional, proactive and creative.
- Have capabilities, expertise and knowledge important to a sales team.
- Have high impact sales pitch and well ailed sales team for any product or service.
- Can contribute significantly to the bottom line of the company.
- The company can benefit immensely from your sales expertise.
- Self-driven, highly result oriented and known to excel in marketing.
- Articulate, skilled in dealing with people, with impressive communication skills.
- Male or female, preferably female, even better if with a family team.
- 30-45 years of age; if beyond 45, must have impressive track record in sales.
- Has a network of associates ready to form a marketing organization.
- Must be college graduate, with pleasant personality.

Salary, Over-riding Commissions, Business Development Allowances, Semi-Annual Presidential Performance Bonuses, Transportation and Representation Allowances, and other Sales Incentives.

PLATINUM PLANS PHIL., INC.

Send your resumé in MS Word or Text format by email to executive_search@platinumplans.com (or) all-aces@platinumplans.com fax it to 6363596. You may also call 6372818 for a confidential discussion or text us at 0919-4513487. Alternatively, you can send your resumé by postal mail with your latest photo or visit us at 1007 B West Tektite Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange, Pasig.

COLLECTION & CUSTOMER SERVICE HEAD

You are tasked with managing, developing and improving strategies for the over-all operation of the billing and collection, as well as the customer service operations of the company.

- Graduate of a 4-year course, preferably Business Administration
- Has prior experience in pre-need or insurance, in billing & collecting plan installments & the like
- Preferably with Customer Service work related experience
- Has good analytical and numerical skills
- Has above average written and oral communication skills
- Willing to travel to provincial branches

Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP HEAD

Reporting to the President, you are responsible for the overall operation of the HR Group of the company by overseeing all facets of human resource management and development, seeing to it that it is responsive to the employee's career needs and the company's business interests.

- Graduate of a 4-year course in business, psychology or management, preferably with relevant master's degree.
- Extensive work experience in HR at a senior officer level, preferably with 5 year work in HR Management and Development.
- Knowledgeable in all facets of HR Management and Development.
- Experience in insurance, pre-need or related financial services industry, preferred.
- Highly dynamic and adaptable, a strong team player with very good interpersonal skills; must be personable and assertive.
- Have excellent oral and written communication skills; preferably with good presentation skills.
- Computer literate, hands-on skills in word processors, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, preferred.

Senior Executive level position, compensation package is open.

Characters

- STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER/ CONSULTANT
- MERCHANDISE MANAGER
- PR MANAGER
- BRAND MANAGER
- DESIGNER/ MERCHANDISER (for Children's Apparel)
- ARTIST (for Bags & Accessories)
- PROJECT COORDINATOR (EE or Architecture Graduate)
- INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
- AUDIT STAFF
- MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- Female, not more than 35 years old
- With solid work experience of the same capacity
- With pleasing personality and good moral character
- Computer literate

PLEASE SEND YOUR RESUME AND TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS
107 Tandang Sora St. Edsa Monumento, Caloocan City
e-mail: megatoons@vasia.com

ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, INC.

Is presently looking for highly-motivated individuals to fill up the following positions:

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

- Male or female, a licensed Electrical or Mechanical Engineer;
- With at least seven (7) years of experience in building maintenance and civil works supervision;
- Possesses strong leadership qualifications and uncompromising sense of commitment;
- Hardworking and with good interpersonal working relationship with Management, clients and peers.

MAINTENANCE COORDINATOR

- Male or female, not more than 35 years old;
- A licensed Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, Sanitary and Plumbing Engineer;
- With at least three (3) years of experience in school operations and maintenance of building and grounds;
- Hardworking with good interpersonal working relationship with Management, clients and peers;

ADMIN/EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY

- Female, not more than 35 yrs. old;
- A graduate of any four (4) year course, preferably with 2-3 yrs. of experience in handling administrative works;
- Has an above-average scholastic record, with effective communication skills;
- Proficient in computer use, mature, hardworking, smart and trustworthy.

JOB ANALYST

- Male or female, not more than 35 yrs. old;
- A degree holder, with extensive experience in drafting job descriptions in line with the job evaluation program;
- Proficient in computer use
- Pleasant and with effective communication skills

SOCIAL CONCERN SUPERVISORS/OFFICERS

- Male or female, a graduate of any four (4) year course for the officer level;
- A graduate of any four (4) year course with Master's degree or Masteral units for the Supervisory level;
- With experience in planning, coordinating and overseeing programs for the formation of students, faculty and staff toward social responsibility and action.
- With experience as a Volunteer in advocacy, pastoral or non-government work.

PAYROLL CLERK

- Male or female, not more than 35 yrs. old;
- A BSBA or BSC, major in Accountancy graduate;
- Preferably with 1-2 years of experience in handling payroll;
- Proficient in computer use, hardworking, smart and pleasant.

HR CLERK

- Male or female, not more than 35 yrs. old;
- A Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate;
- Preferably with 1-2 years of experience in handling HR functions such as Information System, Employee Care and Recruitment;
- Proficient in computer use, hardworking, smart and pleasant.

PLEASE APPLY PERSONALLY TO:
ADMIN AFFAIRS DIVISION – Human Resources Department
ASSUMPTION COLLEGE, INC.
San Lorenzo Drive, San Lorenzo Village, Makati City
From Monday to Friday, 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Yapster e-Trade, Inc.

Yapster e-Trade, Inc. is an online stock broker company that delivers online equities trading to investors desktops with necessary tools to manage risks and maximize investment returns.

FREELANCE MARKETING CONSULTANTS

Responsibilities:

Will market Mutual Bond Fund and generate new accounts. Responsibilities will include product demonstrations to prospective individual and/or corporate clients and build customer relations.

Requirements:

☑ Male/Female, 21 years old and above
☑ With excellent communication and interpersonal skills
☑ Hardworking, self-motivated and result-oriented individuals
☑ Good team player
☑ Willing to be trained
☑ Willing to do field work

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and one 2x2 picture to:

Human Resources Department
5/F, BA Lepanto Building, Paseo de Roxas
Makati City 1226
or e-mail @:
tricia.marcelo@yapster.com; marcus.carreon@yapster.com
visit our website @ www.yapster.com

A NOODLE MANUFACTURING COMPANY
is in need of the following:

PRODUCTION SUPERVISORS

- Male, graduate of Mechanical Engineering or Electrical Engineering
- Minimum of two years relevant experience in food manufacturing
- Willing to work in shifts
- Computer literate, highly analytical, adept in production planning, quality assurance and has good communication skills.

BOILER TECHNICIANS

- Male, technical school course graduate
- With experience in operation, maintenance and trouble shooting of boilers
- Willing to work in shifts and can work with minimum supervision

FOOD ANALYSTS

- Male/Female of CHEMICAL ENGINEERING or FOOD TECHNOLOGY
- Minimum of 1 year experience in food industry
- Computer literate, can work with minimum supervision
- Good communication skills, both in oral and written English

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS

- Male/Female at least 21 years old, graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate, hardworking, assertive and highly motivated
- With knowledge in timekeeping procedures
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Good communications skills, both in oral and written English

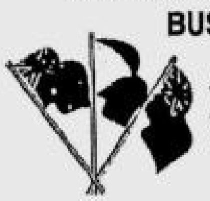
ALL ABOVE APPLICANTS WILL BE ASSIGNED AT ANGELES, PAMPANGA

Please send your resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 picture to:

JAZDALE ENTERPRISE
c/o Alex Wong
Room 402 Dolores Building
434 Barraca St.
Binondo, Manila 1006

Qualified applicants will be called for interview.

AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND-PHILIPPINES BUSINESS FELLOWSHIPS



Sponsored by the
Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Inc.

FOR YOUNG ACHIEVERS IN AGRICULTURE & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce (ANZCHAM) is offering an Agricultural Fellowship and an Infrastructure Fellowship to young Filipinos wishing to further their studies in these fields.

The Fellowships are an initiative of ANZCHAM and funded by the various activities of the Chamber.

Each Fellow will receive a travel grant to undertake a short-term study mission which will assist them in their career development, and enable them to undertake specialist training not available locally. An important objective of the Program is to foster the development of business skills in Agriculture and in Infrastructure Development, and for the expertise gained to be passed on to Regions in need in the Philippines.

Applications for the 2002 Australia-New Zealand-Philippines Business Fellowships are invited from:

- Individuals in the workforce who show potential for further development;
- Postgraduate research degree students nearing the completion of their studies.

The Closing date for applications is the 30th May, 2002

Send your applications, bio-data and project proposals for short-term study in Australia or New Zealand to:

Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines, Inc.
7th Floor, Oakwood Premier, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City
Tel.: (632) 755-8840/41; Fax: (632) 755-8843/44

URGENTLY NEEDED

SALES ENGINEER (for Electrical)

- Female not more than 30 years old
- Electrical Eng'g graduate
- 1 to 2 years sales experience preferably selling electrical products like electric motors, motor controls, circuit breakers, distribution panels etc.
- Has a wide client base of Dealers, OEM's, Panel builders & Electrical Contractors
- Having a car is an advantage.
- Willing to travel within the Phils.
- Computer literate is a must

SALES ENGINEER (for Electro-Mechanical)

- Female 25years old and above
- Electrical Engineering graduate
- With at least 3 years experience in the sales of Electrical Equipments i.e. Switchgear, Motor Control Center, Capacitor Bank, MTS, ATS, Panelboards.
- Must be effective in relating with different personalities in communication and interactive skills
- Self-motivated, aggressive and responsible
- Must have drive to meet the sales target and computer literate is an advantage.
- Having a car is an advantage.
- Willing to travel within the Phils.

TECHNICAL ENGINEER

- Female (25-35 years old)
- Preferably an Electrical Engineer graduate
- With 3 years and above experience in electrical equipment i.e. Switchgear, Motor Control Center, Capacitor Bank, Automatic Transfer Switch, and all types of magnetic starter and electrical controls
- Good in communication skills & conceptualization w/ experience in handling engineering projects to include planning and control of all drawings that are due for production
- Must have knowledge in cost estimate & design
- Must have knowledge in computer software such as MS office and AutoCAD

SALES ENGINEER

- Female (25-35 years old)
- Engineering course graduate (Civil / Sanitary)
- With two (2) years working experience
- With pleasing personality, articulate and aggressive and customer-service oriented type of personality
- Must have drive to meet the sales target
- Having a car is an advantage
- Willing to travel within the Phils.
- Computer literate is a must

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

- Female (25-35 years old)
- Architecture / Interior Design / Civil Engineering graduate
- With two (2) years working experience
- With pleasing personality, hardworking and with high caliber sales & marketing individual
- With wide architect / interior design & Contractor clientele
- Must have drive to meet the sales target
- Having a car is an advantage
- Willing to travel within the Phils.
- Computer literate with AutoCAD knowledge

Qualified candidates may mail/send their updated resume,
transcript of records, diploma and recent 2x2 photo to:

PHILMAN COMMERCIAL INC.
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
310-E P&L Bldg. G Araneta Ave., Brgy. Santol, Quezon City
716-9725 to 31 or email it at ec_tan@vasia.com
INTERVIEW BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

GLOBALTECH URGENTLY NEEDS YOU!

Our company, a leading supplier of equipment & systems for the telecommunication & information technology market and a solution provider. It offers the widest range of products like Intelligent PABX Server & Quality Cordless/Corded Phone to application like Call Centre Solutions, Voice Mail System, IVR, CTI, Structured Cabling is in urgent need of qualified personnel:

ENTERPRISE NETWORK ASSISTANT

- ✓ Male/Female, 27 to 35 yrs. old with strong pleasing personality
- ✓ Must be graduate of ECE/CoE/CoSci
- ✓ Minimum of 3 years experience in project management on structured cabling (LAN/WAN) installations
- ✓ Must have an intensive hands on experience as an installer, designer, and network support engineer (both for copper and fiber)
- ✓ Expert in LAN/WAN design, installation, costing, estimation and implementation (active and passive device)
- ✓ Must have knowledge in TIA/EIA, 5684A/568B Cabling Standard
- ✓ Knowledge in related products is an advantage
- ✓ Must be able to organized project reporting and monitoring
- ✓ Must be good in oral & written communication and Computer Literate
- ✓ Knowledge in AutoCAD, VISIO and other applicable software
- ✓ Sales experience is an advantage

ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- ✓ Female, Filipino Chinese, 23- 28 yrs. old with strong pleasing personality
- ✓ Accounting Graduate
- ✓ Hardworking, detail oriented, computer literate
- ✓ With experience is an advantage
- ✓ Graps instruction easily, willing to work overtime
- ✓ Must be good in oral & witten communication.

SOFTWARE PROGRAMMER

- ✓ Male/Female, Filipino/Filipino Chinese, 25 to 32 yrs old, with pleasing personality, Must be good in oral and written communication
- ✓ Must have basic knowledge in PABX, Voice Mail, Computer Telephony Integration, Integrated Voice Response, Automatic Call Distribution, Call Logging, Unified Messaging System for Call Center Application
- ✓ Must be knowledgable in Visual Basic 6, Access 2000, Crystal 8.0, SQL2000
- ✓ Willing to work long hours, With 2 years selling experience is an advantage

SYSTEM INTEGRATORS/STRUCTURED CABLING CONTRACTORS ARE WELCOME TO SUBMIT COMPANY PROFILE

Competitive salary, allowance, benefits, incentives such as commissions, car plan, and continuous training for both local & international awaits successful candidates

Interested applicants who meet the above qualifications are invited to personally submit their resume, 2x2 photo, birth certificate & transcript of records to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
GLOBALTECH INDUSTRIAL CORPORATION
3/F Hian Chiong Bldg., 725-A Tomas Mapua St.,
Sta. Cruz, Manila, 1003 Philippines
Telephone # 734-3153 to 57, Fax # 734-3154 loc114
Email: info@globaltech-online.net

PHILAM GROUP OF COMPANIES

Be a Part of the PHILAM Family

CASHIERING SERVICES ASST MANAGER (Manila)

28-35 years old; graduate of Accounting or other business course. Will be tasked with planning, organizing, directing and controlling of the operations and resources of the Cash Section. Must be familiar with cashiering/treasury transactions, systems and procedures. Must exhibit excellent communication, interpersonal and management skills. Knowledge of insurance accounting or banking is an advantage. Highly proficient in computer operations.

2 TRAINING OFFICERS (Manila)

23-28 years old; Psychology or Behavioral Science graduates. Will design and conduct management and supervisory behavioral training programs and evaluate training results. With at least 2 years of experience in handling teambuilding, vision deployment and customer service programs, preferably gained from a financial institution. Exposure to recruitment, organizational development and other HR functions is an advantage. Dynamic, creative, articulate and with excellent platform and interpersonal skills. Proficient in the use MS Office applications and multimedia equipment.

BUSINESS ANALYST (Manila)

23-32 years old; Computer Science/Engineering or IE graduate. Will be tasked to liaise between users and IT in the delivery of systems that will improve overall operations of the Investments Division. Must have experience in project management, conduct of large scale systems studies, and systems recommendations, development and implementation. Must be analytical with above average interpersonal and communication skills.

2 ACTUARIAL ANALYST/ASSISTANT (Makati / Manila)

21-30 years old; Math or Statistics graduates. Will be tasked to conduct actuarial valuation and studies of pensions and group insurance products. Must have at least 2 years of related work experience or if fresh graduate, must belong to top 15% of graduating batch. Must have excellent numerical and analytical abilities. Highly computer literate.

PROMO & RESEARCH ASSISTANT (Manila)

Preferably female, 21-24 years old; business course graduate. Will be tasked with preparation of promotional materials, conduct of research studies and training, and conceptualization of activities for business retention campaigns. Must have above average written and oral communication and analytical skills. Must be creative and proficient in the use of MS Office applications and graphic softwares.

5 NURSES / LIAISON OFFICERS (Manila)

Not over 28 years old, registered Nurse. Preferably with 1 year of related experience. Must exhibit positive interpersonal and communication skills. Willing to work long hours. Highly motivated and diligent.

4 ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT & STAFF (Manila)

20-25 years old, accounting graduates. For the Assistant position, must be a CPA and preferably with 1-2 years' work experience in general accounting or audit. Must be articulate and highly computer literate.

INSURANCE SERVICES STAFF (Batangas City)

20-23 years old, business course graduate. Will be tasked to handle administrative functions, customer inquiries and complaints. Must be willing to be trained in insurance operations. Must exhibit positive interpersonal skills. Computer literate.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS OFFICER (Makati)

23-28 years old. Computer Science, MIS or Industrial Engineering graduate. Will be tasked to conduct compensation and benefits studies and handle payroll functions. Must have experience in handling computerized HR information systems. Experience in systems administration is definite advantage. Must have above average numerical and analytical abilities, proficiency in the use of computer and fluency in oral and written English communication.

BILLING & COLLECTION SUPERVISOR (Manila)

Male, 25-32 years old, college graduate, preferably of Accountancy. Will be tasked to supervise the operations of the department to ensure the prompt preparation and release of bills and collection of dues from clients. Must have at least 2 years' related experience. Willing to do fieldwork. Must be analytical with very good interpersonal and communication skills. Computer literate.

EDP AUDITOR/SPECIALIST (Manila)

22-30 years old, graduate of Computer Science or Accounting. With at least 2 years of experience in the audit and review of computerized systems, general EDP functions and internal control policies and procedures. Must have general understanding of accounting and control procedures as well as knowledge in data security and operations. Preferably with exposure to AS/400, IBM mainframe systems, LAN and client-server environment.

5 ACCOUNT OFFICERS/ASSISTANTS
(Makati / Manila / Baguio / Davao / Cebu)

20-26 years old, graduates of Marketing, Management or Communication Arts. Will be tasked with sales calls and prospecting, conduct of agency training, development of marketing tools, conceptualization and implementation of promotional activities and relationship building with agents and brokers. Experience gained from insurance companies or a banking institution is a plus. Must possess excellent command of the English language, confidence in speaking in front of a group and positive interpersonal skills. Willing to travel and do fieldwork.

2 SALES TRAINORS (Cubao / Iloilo)

22-28 years old. Graduates of business or social sciences. Will design and conduct training programs for agency managers and agents. Teaching or training experience is warranted. Must possess excellent facilitation skills. Computer literate. Applicants for the province must be Iloilo-based or willing to relocate.

CLAIMS ANALYST (Cebu)

22-30 years old, Nursing or Physical Therapy graduate. Will be tasked with analysis and processing of claims and reconciliation of claims with providers and clients. Preferably with 1 year of relevant experience. Must possess above average communication and analytical skills. Knowledge of basic accounting is highly preferred. Computer literate.

4 MARKETING / CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS / AD & PROMO STAFF (Manila)

21-24 years old, Marketing or Communication Arts graduates. With at least 6 months of related work experience. If fresh graduates, must have been an editor/writer for the school organ and/or active in school organizations. Must possess good oral and written communication and positive interpersonal skills and be highly creative. Computer literate.

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY. We will offer competitive compensation and benefits packages to the right candidates. Qualified applicants may send their resumés, transcript of records and photos to the indicated address. Please indicate the position you are applying for if you are sending your resume via e-mail at Philamlife-HR.Recruitment@aig.com. VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: www.ephilam.com

CORPORATE HR
PO Box 2167, Manila, Philippines

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CONTACT CENTER AGENTS (CCAs)

For our US-based clients who want us to do various outbound telemarketing activities to the American consuming public

We are looking for:

- *Excellent communicators who are fluent and highly conversant in English;*
- *Determined & Self-Motivated individuals willing to undergo paid extensive training;*
- *Enthusiastic people with a high degree of Customer-Orientation.*

Previous experience is not required. Must be willing to work on shifting schedules.

A Bachelor's Degree is a must.

Generous compensation and benefits scheme await qualified candidates!

Be part of the fastest growing industry in the country today!

Qualified applicants may hand carry, mail or e-mail their comprehensive resume (with latest 2 x 2 picture) and transcript of records to:

SVI CONNECT Corporation
Attn: The Human Resources Department
5th/F Orient Square Bldg., Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1600
email: mvictoriano@svi.com.ph

PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY. AGE LIMIT: 45 years old

MARKETING ASSISTANT FOR CREATIVES

- M/F with pleasing personality
- Must not be more than 25 years old
- Marketing or Mass Communications graduate from a reputable university or college
- Creative and must be computer literate in using freehand, corel draw, adobe, etc.
- Hardworking and determined, with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must be willing to travel

ORCHARD PROPERTY MARKETING CORPORATION
A SUBSIDIARY OF STA LUCIA REALTY & DEVELOPMENT, INC

Qualified applicants are invited to visit OPMCn at Unit 708 West Tower PSEC, Exchange Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Please bring resumé and 2x2 photo or email us at srf@orchardproperty.com.ph

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SALON SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT INC.

MANAGER OF PIANDRE & GEM SALONS
NEEDS IMMEDIATELY

MARKETING ASSISTANTS

- ■ 25-35 years old; Female; 5'2" - 5'4" height; 2 years sales experience; computer literate; with pleasing personality; good at customer relations; conversant in English.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ■ 21-28 years old; Female; graduate of BS in Accountancy; computer literate.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

- ■ 23-25 years old; 4-year college course; computer skills; conversant in English.

STOCK CLERK

- ■ 25-30 years old; 4-year college course; 2 years experience in stock inventory/control; computer literate.

Please submit resumé to:

G/F CSJ Bldg. 105 Aguirre Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Interview on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (1:00 PM - 5:00PM)
Tel. Nos. 812-4864; 813-0240

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Dasmariñas, Cavite, invites you to

Start an exciting career in sales!

We are in need of the following:

Sales Directors

- At least 5 years experience in leading and managing people
- Superior presentation and training skills
- Ability to inspire and motivate others
- Has a network of sales agents and clients

Sales Managers

- At least 3 years experience in leading and managing people
- All the requirements for the Sales Director, on a micro level

Account Executives

- College degree, preferably in the field of marketing or communications
- Fluent in English and Tagalog
- Good presentation skills
- Pleasing and dynamic personality
- Positive, can-do attitude
- Ready to learn, play and work hard

Attractive compensation package includes commissions, allowances, and incentives.

Please fax or bring your resume to KidzWorld by **February 28, 2002.**

KIDZ WORLD THEME PARKS, AMUSEMENT, AND RECREATIONAL CLUB, INC.
83 Boni Serrano Avenue (formerly Santolan)
Quezon City, Philippines, 1111
Phone: (632) 721-2167, 721-3509
Fax: (632) 723-2596
E-mail: fun@kidzworld.com.ph

SM
PRIME
HOLDINGS

We are currently in search of high-caliber professionals for the following positions:

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- At least two (2) years related experience in the maintenance of financial, fiscal and related statistical records
- Proficient in PC-based software applications
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

SECRETARY

- Graduate of a four-year Secretarial / Administration course from reputable school
- At least two (2) years experience in related legal clerical work
- Knowledge of legal terms and various legal forms and documents; legal procedures and practices involved in composing, processing, and filing a variety of legal documents; standard legal references and their contents
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Proficient in PC-based software applications

ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

- Graduate of any four-year course
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must have a pleasing personality, good disposition and able to work under pressure
- Proficient in PC-based software application and internet

Interested applicants are requested to submit personally their comprehensive resumés together with transcript of academic records and latest 2x2 photos to:

**Rm. 426 Makati Stock Exchange Building,
Ayala Avenue, Makati City**

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising HOTLINES:

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899-4425, 897-2535
897-8425 (Telefax)**

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**912-9008 to 11
(Aurora)**

MAKATI

**892-5578, 811-4361
811-4370**

KALAW

528-0213, 527-3342

MEGAMALL

635-0219, 635-0220

A public listed wireless communication system manufacturer is looking for energetic personnel to build up the business and market in the Philippines.

Sales Director

Responsible for sales, marketing, business & account development, office & team built-up, and office & operation set-up with full P & L accountability.

- 7 - 10 years in telecom industry w/ at least 5 years in supervisory roles and with excellent sales records in cellular and wireless broadband access market
- Excellent connections with operators and government authorities, such as NTC
- Exposure in operation setup, licensing, channel distribution & type approval
- Mature, initiative, aggressive with track record in sales & business development, entrepreneur, strong commercial & negotiation experience
- Sound product & market knowledge in GSM, cellular and wireless access industry with good personal skills & contacts with regulatory bodies & customers
- Good communication in spoken and written English with good presentation skills
- Degree in Electronics, Marketing or equivalent

We offer excellent compensation and benefits package with stock option to the capable candidate. Please send resumé with details of job experience, present and expected salary to: The Administrative Officer by e-mail at address: recruit_philippines@hotmail.com

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SEAOIL

kabalikat mo sa hanapbuhay

Invites you to be part of a dynamic team and a growing organization by becoming its:

PLANT SAFETY INSPECTOR

- ✓ Graduate of Electrical Engineering
- ✓ Preferably with professional license
- ✓ Experience in orientation and implementation of plant safety policies
- ✓ Background in safety audit and gas testing
- ✓ Male, below 35 years old
- ✓ Driving skills, an advantage

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- ✓ Graduate of Chemistry, IE, ME, Marketing, or any Management course
- ✓ Male, below 30 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in industrial sales
- ✓ Good oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Licensed driver

QUALITY MANAGEMENT ANALYSTS

- ✓ Graduate of Industrial/Management engineering or any related course
- ✓ Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills
- ✓ Preferably with background in ISO and quality management audit
- ✓ Driving skills, an advantage

HUMAN RESOURCES ASSISTANT*

- ✓ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or HR-related course
- ✓ Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in recruitment, compensation and benefits, payroll, labor relations etc.
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills

LEGAL ASSITANT*

- ✓ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or HR-related course
- ✓ Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in recruitment, compensation and benefits, payroll, labor relations etc.
- ✓ Above average oral and written communication skills

BRANCH SUPERVISORS
MANAGEMENT TRAINEES*

- ✓ Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Marketing, or any Management course
- ✓ Preferably with experience in food chain, store or station operations
- ✓ Male/Female, below 30 years old
- ✓ Aggressive, highly motivated results-oriented and resourceful

TRAINING OFFICER
TRAINING ASSISTANT*

- ✓ Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or any Business course
- ✓ With experience in a petroleum company, food chain or related industry
- ✓ Creative, flexible, resourceful and customer service-oriented
- ✓ Male/Female, below 28 years old
- ✓ Good oral and written communication skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF*

- ✓ Graduate of Accountancy
- ✓ Male/Female, below 28 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in accounting work
- ✓ Good oral and written communication skills

WAREHOUSEMAN

- ✓ Graduate of any engineering course
- ✓ Male, below 35 years old
- ✓ With at least 4 years work experience in warehousing

CASHIERS*

- ✓ Graduate of Accountancy, Banking & Finance or any business course
- ✓ Male/Female, below 26 years old
- ✓ Preferably with experience in cashiering; operating knowledge of POS, an advantage
- ✓ Computer literate (MS Excel/Word)
- ✓ Good communication skills
- ✓ Comfortable with shifting schedule

SERVICE CREW*

- ✓ Graduate of vocational course or at least college level
- ✓ Male/Female, below 26 years old
- ✓ Experience as crew in a food chain or service-oriented business, an advantage
- ✓ Good communication skills

*Fresh and highly trainable graduates may apply.

Send your resumé or bio-data to
The Human Resources Department
SEAOIL PETROLEUM CORPORATION
G/F The Meridien Bldg., 29 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan, M.M.
or e-mail to roy_decena@seaoil.e-mail.ph
for appointment and further inquiries, please contact
722.48.71 to 75 or 723.08.50

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KENDEIGH INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

A Philippine based international company on its expansion program invites qualified and interested applicants for the post below:

BUSINESS MANAGERS

- 21 years old and above
- Male or Female
- Aggressive, analytical and can work under pressure
- Fluent in English and Chinese (is an advantage)
- Self motivated and can work with minimum supervision
- A graduate of any reputable university with 4-year course (preferably a graduate of Ateneo, La Salle, UP and UST)

We provide:

- Intensive training
- On-the-job training
- Management training

We offer:

- Five figure monthly remuneration
- Incentives and Awards
- Commission in US $ Dollars
- Overseas Holiday
- Managerial Promotion

If you feel you have the above criteria and drive to succeed

Apply at:
11th Floor, THE PEAK TOWER BUILDING
107 L.P. Leviste Street, Brgy. Bel-Air, Salcedo Village
Makati City
From 18th to 22nd day of February 2002
10:30 AM - 5:00 PM

A Leading Electrical Supply Company urgently needs

I. SENIOR SALES ENGINEER

- Male/Female, 24-32 years old with pleasing personality
- EE/ECE/ME graduate, preferably with license
- At least 2 years sales experience and familiar in handling industrial, commercial and project accounts; knowledgeable in electrical and electronic controls and components; lightings; wires and cables, PLC functions and operation
- Strong leadership skills and experience in handling and motivating staff; formulating and implementing sales and marketing plans
- Excellent communication skills and preferably experience in organizing product training and presentation; ability to speak Chinese would be an advantage but not required
- Salary/compensation package negotiable.

II. SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Male/Female, 24-32 years old with pleasing personality
- Graduate of Engineering, Marketing, Mass Communication, Business Management
- At least 2 years sales experience and ability to deal and interact with Architects, Designers, and Engineers would be an advantage
- Creative, aggressive, honest, hardworking and results-oriented
- Candidates with knowledge in electrical products and can effectively communicate in Chinese would be an advantage
- Salary commensurate to experience and qualifications plus allowances, high sales commission, bonuses and incentives. We offer career growth and promotion to supervisory/managerial position after one year of good performance.

III. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Male/Female, 22-26 years old with pleasing personality
- Graduate of Engineering, Marketing, Mass Communication, Psychology, Business Management
- Willing to undergo product training and do field visitation to promote company's products and establish business relations with country's top Architects, Electrical Designers, Engineers
- Hardworking, creative, confident, smart, honest, and results-oriented
- Excellent communication skills. Knowledge of Chinese an advantage but not required
- We offer above industry starting salary plus allowances and promotion to higher position after one year of good performance.

IV. SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

- Female, not more than 38 years old
- Accountancy graduate preferably CPA, or at least attended CPA review
- Fluent in English and Chinese languages
- At least 3 years experience and knowledgeable in all phases of accounting work; Financial reports; can implement policies and internal controls
- Proficient in computer Microsoft Word & Excel
- Salary negotiable

Interested candidates are invited to apply personally with comprehensive resumé, TOR, employment certificates and colored photo (2x2) to:

**Le Marben Classic Condominium
676 Florentino Torres Street corner Soler, Sta. Cruz, Manila
(back of National Bookstore)
Tel. Nos. 733-8351 to 56 E-mail: zgchrd@vasia.com
Look for Engr. Benjie Rosario / Mr. Angelo Villanueva**

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISORS

- Male, not more than 25 years old
- College graduate and computer literate
- With experience in warehouse operations, traffic and control

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OFFICERS

- Female / male, not more than 25 years old
- College Graduate and computer literate
- With pleasing personality and excellent in oral / written English communications
- With experience in multi level marketing operations
- Can motivate, train, monitor, supervise and encourage network members

SALES ENGINEERS / ACCOUNT OFFICERS

- Male / Female, single with pleasing personality and not more than 25 years old
- Mechanical, Chemical, Industrial Engineering graduate / Marketing graduate
- Willing to undergo training and receive salary plus commission
- With or without experience in sales and marketing

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Male / Female, single, pre-med course graduate
- With or without experience in Sales and Marketing
- With pleasing personality and excellent in oral /written communications
- Willing to undergo training and receive salary plus commission

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

- Male / Female, College graduate
- With pleasing personality, willing to be trained

Submit your resumé with picture to
TAYTAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION
822 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Email: info@taytan.com

DIRECT EMPLOYER of NURSES

FOR A HOME HEALTH AGENCY IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

This certified home health agency is designed to treat homebound patients of all ages. The mobile/visiting nurses work in conjunction with the attending physicians in a team of medical professionals. They perform duties consistent with the Nursing Practice Act including but not limited to:

- Provide preventive, therapeutic and rehabilitative nursing procedures and techniques according to the plan of care
- Provide initial, periodic and end of care nursing assessment
- Maintain communication and assist in coordinating all services provided with physician, supervisor, other personnel and family
- Provide and maintain a safe environment for the patient
- Complete, maintain and submit accurate and relevant clinical notes regarding patient's condition and care given
- Observe the patient for changes in condition, discusses changes to patient's family and physician and revises plan of care as necessary
- Educate and instruct the patient, patients' family or staff for continuity of care

Registered Nurse * Min. 7 years nursing exp. * Intellectual aptitude to pass the U.S. licensing exams * Fluent in English * Driving experience * California RN license a plus

Send hand-written application letter; resume; passport-size picture and copies of transcript of records, CGFNS certificate, TOEFL certificate and driver license to:
Sacred Heart of Jesus Nursing Care Inc.
9660 Flair Drive, Suite # 425, El Monte, CA 91731, U.S.A.
Tel. (626) 258 0441, Fax (626) 258 0442

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MEDICard PHILS. INC.

One of the country's leading HMO is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

REGISTERED NURSES

With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting;
With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills;
Willing to be assigned in Clark Pampanga, Navotas, Makati and Manila.

MARKETING ASSISTANT

Female, not more than 25 years of age. At least 5'2" in height;
Graduate of Marketing, Mass Communication or Medical Courses;
Must be computer literate;
A medical background is an advantage but not a must.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR

Female, between 21 to 27 years of age;
Graduate of B.S. Accountancy;
Must be computer literate.

LIAISON OFFICER

Graduate of any Medical course;
Good in oral and written communication skills;
Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department-5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at laguila@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

Seize The Opportunity!

Unlimited success potential is in your hands

We are a **direct sales company** and we are looking for someone like you to

Be part of a World Class Team!

Expand your career!
Sell at your own pace!
Work part-time or full-time as a
Sales Agent

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Monday and Wednesday, at 6:00 pm.
Rainbow Philippines
7th floor, Makati Executive Center,
L.P.Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati City

EL NIDO
RESORTS

TEN KNOTS DEVELOPMENT CORP.

A world class tourist destination located in Palawan need applicants for immediate employment:

JAPANESE ACCOUNT MANAGER

25-30 years old, female, 1-2 years work experience as account manager or any related field, pleasant, Japanese speaking (required).

SALES ASSISTANT

22-25 years old, female, 1-2 years work experience in related field, pleasant, preferably Tourism or Hotel and Restaurant Management graduates.

RESORT NURSE/HR ASSISTANT

25-30 years old, female, 1-2 years work experience as Company Nurse or any related field, pleasant, licensed.

GUEST ACTIVITY COORDINATOR

22-25 years old, female, HRM or Tourism graduate, pleasant, with good communication skills.

Send resumé with picture to **Ten Knots Development Corp.**, HR Department, 2/F Builders Centre Building, 170 Salcedo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City. Through e-mail hra@elnidoresorts.com or fax through 894-1134.

FOXTECH 2000 PLACEMENT SERVICES

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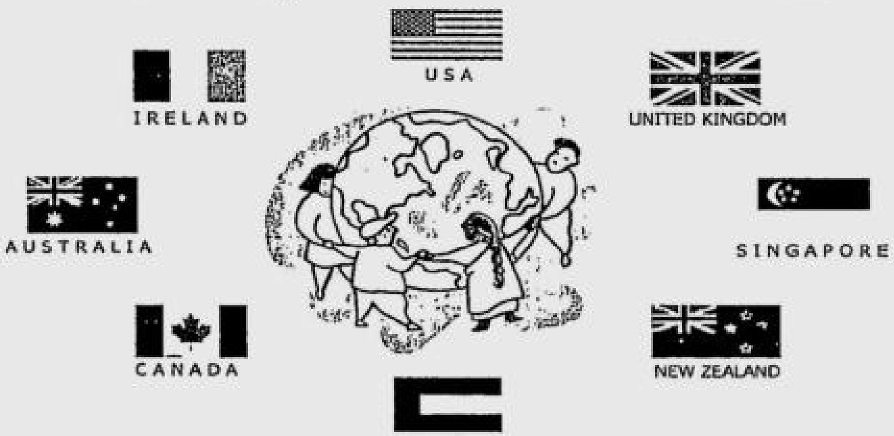
Nursing and Healthcare Recruitment



Inviting all Nurses in different areas of specialization to explore career opportunities and global exposures!

Qualified Candidates would be considered for IMMIGRANT STATUS

Medical - Surgical   Pediatric . Obstetrics - Gynecology   Cardiology
Neo-natal ICU   ICU - NICU   Accident & Emergency   Renal Care   Dialysis

Send your resume to: **Joy Franje** Email: joy@foxtech2000.com H/P: **0916-4261861**

Singapore-based representatives will be coming over to conduct interviews.
Interested candidates should email their contact details and resume, ASAP!

The Source of Quality Healthcare Professionals

PRO DATA SYSTEM

is in need of

SALES EXECUTIVE/SUPERVISOR

Male / Female, not more than 35 years old and must have a degree in Marketing and Communication, Computer Engineering or any Computer related courses. Must be hardworking, with strong personality and computer literacy is an advantage. Must have an excellent customer sales and service skills, proficient in oral and written English and can work with minimum supervision. Having established business contacts is an advantage.

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN / TECHNICAL SUPERVISOR

Male / Female, not more than 30 years old and must have a degree in Computer Engineering (COE), Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) or Computer Engineering related course. Must have at least two years relevant experience with extensive hands-on knowledge of computer hardware, software troubleshooting, repair and maintenance (printers, scanners, modem, etc.).

WE OFFER:

- COMMISSIONS, INCENTIVES AND BONUSES
- COMPREHENSIVE TRAINING PROGRAMS
- SALARY IS NEGOTIABLE

Apply in person with your resumé and 2x2 colored picture at:

PC CHAIN SUPERSTORE
No. 34-36, Unit 21-22 LVN Townhomes, P. Tuazon, Q.C.
Tel. Nos. 722-5341, 723-0030, 414-4347, 410-0416

ACCOUNTANTS

Our clients, all reputable domestic firms need experienced Accountants.

Those who are in their early 20's to mid 30's with above-average scholastic records, proficient in Word or Excel, will be the ideal candidates.

As the need to fill in the position are urgent, interested applicants are requested to personally submit their resumé and credentials:

MANILA CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT CO., INC.
14th Floor JAKA 6780, Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone No. 813-1058; Facsimile No. 819-0485
E-mail address: hrd@manilaconsulting.com

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Qualifications:

☑ Graduate of BS Accountancy
☑ Must be computer literate
☑ Not more than 28 years old
☑ Must be of good moral character

Please apply in person and bring credentials and recent 2x2 photo at:

Center for Educational Measurement, Inc.
6/F Concorde Condominium
200 Benavides St. cor. Salcedo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 818-6129 / 818-6538
8:00 AM / 1:00 PM
Look for Ms. Wilma Coprado

CED MANPOWER & GENERAL SERVICES, INC.

RM. 202B IDC PLAZA, Zapote St. Cor. Kalayaan Ave., Makati City
TEL. NO.: 895-6987

URGENTLY NEEDED

Apply personally with NBI, Picture (2x2) & Resumé/Biodata at:

HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC - M, at least 45 y.o. must be familiar in container van tractors, repair and overhaul, knowledgeable in diesel engine: transmission, brakes & engine, at least 5 years exp.

DIESEL MECHANIC - M, at least 40 y.o., familiar with stationary and marine engines, minimum of 3 years exp.

ACCTG. CLERK - M/F, graduate of Accounting pref. with exp.

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - M, grad. ME/ Ind. Eng'r., computer literate, knowledgeable in machine shop, to carry out various industrial plant equipment parts fabrication and repair such as pump compressors blowers, shafting, impellers, rollers, conveyor, internal combustion engines components repair and fabrication.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY - F, at least 35 y.o., computer literate with exp. in sales, 1 year exp., good in correspondence, with pleasing personality and good comm. skills

PROPERTY/PROCUREMENT OFFICER - M, with knowledge in internal combustion engine parts.

MACO

The Furniture Store

Now Hiring for its EXPANSION!

is in need of:

(1) SALES-ADMIN. EXECUTIVE

With the following qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Male/Female
- 27 years old and above
- at least with 3 years experience in sales and Administrative work
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- With pleasing personality
- Good references

Apply in person at MC Home Builders Depot,
EDSA cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Bring the following: Resumé (CV), copy of Transcript of Records,
Two (2) 2"x2" colored pictures.
Look for the HRD.

ATTENTION!

creative, innovative, trendspotting, responsible customer-oriented, music-loving jobseekers

XAX
XAX Music Entertainment, Inc.

a Foreign-owned Recording Company
WANTS YOU
for the following positions

OFFICE RECEPTIONIST/EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
ACCOUNTING CLERK
ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR
ASST. STUDIO ENGINEER
COMPANY DRIVER

all applicants must have at least 2 yrs. experience in their designated positions.

Interested parties are invited to bring their resume in person at
14th Floor Rufino Pacific Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City
Please come between 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Tues & Thurs only
or call Tel. Nos. 8110725 / 8110714-15, and look for Ms. Beng [illegible]

TECHNICAL/PROFESSIONAL/GENERAL

*A leading **Healthcare** company is in need of career-oriented individuals to fill-up the following positions:*

O.R. NURSE

Licensed nurse and a graduate of a reputable college/university
Between 22-35 years old
With at least 2 years experience as an O.R. nurse in a hospital

STAFF NURSE

Licensed nurse and a graduate of a reputable college/university
Between 22-35 years old
With at least one year training experience in a hospital or clinic
Flexible and a team player

CORPORATE ACCOUNTS OFFICER

Pleasing, confident and aggressive personality
With strong communication skills and proven sales record
At least 2 years experience in Sales and Marketing preferably from a health care or health insurance company
Between 22-30 years old

Interested applicants may send their resumé to:

BOX MK-73
c/o Classifieds Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium Makati, Makati Avenue
Makati City

JIMAC INCORPORATED **POS SYSTEM PROVIDER**

IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROGRAMMERS

- Either Computer Science or related discipline
- Good in system analysis and design
- Dedicated and hardworking with minimal supervision
- Can program in Delphi/Pascal or Visual Basic
- Experience in SQL and Client/Server environment is a must
- TEAM player and can handle pressure

Looking for both **DELPHI** and **CLIPPER** Programmers

Interested qualified applicants may send their resumé with recent photo at the following address or via e-mail

JIMAC, INCORPORATED
HR DEPARTMENT
Room 602 Metropolitan Terraces Condominium
Sacred Heart Street corner Metropolitan Avenue
Makati City
E-mail address: hrd@jimac-inc.com

A Fastest Growing Company engaged in the supply and distribution of Data, Power, Wireless and Telecom Solution is looking for career-oriented people to fill up the following position for immediate employment:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (3)

To be responsible for the promotion and sales of company's products:

- ➢ Male/Female 21-30 years old
- ➢ College Graduate/Minimum of 4-year course
- ➢ Good in oral/written communication
- ➢ Can work with less supervision
- ➢ Minimum of 1-2 years in the field of Sales/Marketing (Fresh graduates may also apply)

SR. SALES EXECUTIVE (1)

To be responsible for his/her team in the promotion and sales of company's products:

- ➢ Male/Female 25-30 years old
- ➢ College graduate; Minimum of 4 year course
- ➢ Good in oral/written communication
- ➢ Highly committed and dedicated, capable of adding value to his/her work and strong team player of the sales team
- ➢ Articulate, strong sense of responsibility, honest and hardworking
- ➢ Can bring competitive results in line with the business objective
- ➢ Can handle at least 3-4 sales executives
- ➢ Minimum 3-5 years in the field of Sales/Marketing
- ➢ Selling experience on power, wireless and datacom products an advantage

Applicants are requested to send their application letter, comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 picture and transcript of records to:

ATMI
The Personnel Department
#335 G/F AGCOR Building, Katipunan Avenue, Loyola Heights, Quezon City
E-mail: malc_atm@i-manila.com.ph

A multi-national company is in need of the ff. positions:

CHEMICAL SALES COORDINATOR

- Female, 20-25 years old, single, B.S. Pharmacy, Chem. Eng'g, Bio-chemistry or any related science course graduate
- Accommodating walk-in clients and answering phone-in product inquiry
- In charge in sales data management
- Previous experience in working with any Chemicals Textile company is an asset

INDUSTRIAL SALES SUPERVISOR

- Male, not more than 35 years of age, graduate of any 4-year Chemistry course
- Previous experience in Industrial Chemicals, and/or Food Industry
- Excellent negotiation and communication skills
- With extensive exposure in managing people
- At least 3 years working experience and knowledge in Sales and Marketing

STOCK CONTROLLERS

- Male, 20-25 years old, single, College graduate of any 4-year course
- Will handle jobs in stocks receiving, repacking, segregating and dispatching of items to customers and delivery trucks
- Maintaining the required quantity stock level of all items
- With or without experience in warehousing works

TEXTILE PRINTING SALES AGENT

- Male/Female not more than 40 years of age, w/good moral character
- Knowledge in screen making preparation of colors, stretching, exposing stencil development are an advantage
- Preferably with background in handling table/machines printers

Interested applicants may send their resumé, recent photo & transcript of records to:

Fax No. 361-6517 or call 363-1143

MOF COMPANY, INC., a leading transport service company engaged in general shipping operations, is URGENTLY in need of dynamic and energetic professionals to occupy the following positions:

LINE MANAGERS

- Male/Female not more than 36 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or any Business course from a reputable college/university
- Must have at least 2 years sales experience preferably in shipping or forwarding
- Preferably with managerial/supervisory experience
- Excellent leadership skills and highly-motivated
- Computer literate

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Male/Female, 21-26 years old
- Graduate of Marketing or any Business course from a reputable college/university
- With pleasing & dynamic personality, excellent communication skills
- People oriented, self-motivated and willing to do field work
- With professional driver's license
- Recent graduates are welcome to apply
- Computer literate

CUSTOMER SERVICE

- Female, 21-25 years old
- Graduate of BS Communication or any business course
- Must have knowledge in computer & information technology
- With good command, both oral & written of the English language
- Knowledge is shipping & forwarding is an advantage
- Highly-motivated & can work under pressure
- Computer literate.

(Previous Applicants Need Not Apply)
Qualified applicants are requested to mail/handcarry their resumé with 2x2 photo and proof of scholastic records not later than February 28, 2001 at:

MOF COMPANY, INC.
CTC Bldg., 2232 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City
(Please look for Butch/Lanie - Personnel Dept.)
Tel. Nos. 831-8721

or Email thru
thims@hanjin.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING AT PS BANK TOWER

WE NEED

- ■ College graduate of at least 4-year course from reputable schools
- ■ Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- ■ Willing to start immediately (not presently employed or enrolled)
- ■ Fluent in English or Chinese
- ■ With pleasing personality

APPLY AT

Suite 2104 21st Floor, PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
(beside Makati Post Office)

WE OFFER

- ■ *Above average compensation await those who qualify*
- ■ Local & International company sponsored trips
- ■ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system
- ■ Comprehensive training at company's expense

Come in PROPER BUSINESS ATTIRE and bring 2 pcs. of passport-sized pictures, complete resumé and valid ID on February 18, 19, 20 & 21 (Monday - Thursday) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Office of the President
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

Invites qualified applicants to be appointed on secondment or contractual basis for the following positions:

ONE (1) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS (SG-27)

Professional Manager; preferably with background in Economics/Urban Planning/Environmental Science, Chemical/Civil Engineering or related fields; at least 10 years supervisory experience in managing development projects and inter-agency coordination.

ONE (1) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE (SG-27)

Lawyer (BAR passer), willing to handle PRRC legal cases, administrative and financial matters; preferably with background in Program Administration/Project Management/Accounting/Budgeting and procurement; at least 10 years supervisory experience.

TWO (2) LEGAL OFFICERS (SG-20 & 22)

Has passed the BAR; at least three years experience in handling legal cases.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (SG-18)

a) Graduate of Environmental Sciences/Chemistry/Chemical Engineering/Marine/Water Resource Management; and b) GIS professional expert. Applicants must possess excellent writing skills with at least two years work experience.

Interested applicants may submit curriculum vitaé with 2x2 photo to the Administrative Division, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, 2nd Floor, MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

If you fit our needs, we'll satisfy yours...

Get a Nice Job, Competitive Salary + Commissions

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Female, single, w/ pleasing personality & not more than 25 yrs. old
- College level or graduate
- Articulate, competent, hardworking and can handle pressure
- can formulate effective marketing strategies
- with or without selling experience

TELEMARKETER

- Female, single, w/ pleasing personality & not more than 25 yrs. old
- College graduate, w/ experience in telephone selling
- Computer literate

Pls. bring your bio-data with picture. previous applicants need not apply.

CLEANCITY COMMERCIAL

1851 M. Orosa St., Malate, Manila Tel. 524-5290
646 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City Tel. 749-0581

UNIBANCARD CORPORATION

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Unibancard Corporation is among the top five credit card companies in the Philippines, being one of the pioneer companies in the industry. It is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Metrobank Group, currently the largest financial conglomerate in the country.

As part of its goal to remain highly competitive in the market and improve its service to its cardholders, the company is looking for high-caliber candidates who could fill in the following positions:

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICER
COLLECTION OFFICER

- ➢ With at least 2 years experience in customer service or collection function
- ➢ Excellent analytical skills and sound judgment
- ➢ Excellent customer communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- ➢ Minimum three (3) years experience especially in the following areas:
  - ✓ product development
  - ✓ corporate communication
  - ✓ advertising and promotion
- ➢ Excellent presentation skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF
COMPLIANCE ASSISTANTS

- ➢ Graduate of Accounting or business course
- ➢ With knowledge in reconciliation
- ➢ Good analytical skills

PROGRAMMERS

- ➢ Preferably a BS Computer Science graduate
- ➢ 2 years programming experience in Visual Basic using MS SQL Server and MS Access as backend
- ➢ Experience in application development using MS Outlook and Exchange Server would be an advantage

ALL CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS:

- ☑ A graduate of a 4-year business related course
- ☑ Above-average verbal and written communication skills
- ☑ Hardworking, goal-oriented with a driver for "success" and "excellence"
- ☑ Willing to be involved in a constantly fast-paced work environment
- ☑ Strong leadership abilities
- ☑ Self-motivated and able to work independently as well as in a team
- ☑ Computer literate

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 photo, and official transcript of records to:

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
UNIBANCARD CORPORATION
16th Floor, PS Bank Tower
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati
Telephone Number 845-0101 local 4607 or 906

ATTENTION!!

CARTOONISTS, ARTISTS, AND ILLUSTRATORS

Be part of the design team of a WELL-KNOWN MANUFACTURER OF BRANDED CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ⇨ Graduate of Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Advertising, or any art or design related courses.
- ⇨ Ability to create and illustrate cartoon images and children's characters.
- ⇨ Skills in all types of creative media, i.e. pencil, ink, water color, poster color, etc.
- ⇨ Must be creative, artistic, and hardworking.
- ⇨ Knowledge of Illustrator, Photoshop, PageMaker, Freehand, etc. in Mac or PC will be an advantage.

Applicants must be between 18 to 30 years old and preferably a born-again Christian. We specially welcome candidates who reside in Quezon City, Caloocan, Bulacan areas or Northern parts of Metro Manila. Please send your resumé with cover letter, recent ID photo, photocopied of Transcript of Records, photocopied samples of your artwork, and your phone number to:

P.O. Box 408
Greenhills, San Juan 1502
Metro Manila

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From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Self-respect in the workplace

BY ERNESTO G. ESPINOSA

(The author is currently the President of the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP). He is also the assistant vice president, HRD and general affairs of Fujitsu Computer Products Corp. of the Philippines.)

"Respect starts with how one treats himself."

February is love month. Our Company's value for the month of February is self-respect. Love, compassion and trust should be freely given but in the process of giving them, the giver should be emotionally, physically, socially and financially ready.

The Filipino value of *pakikisama*

In many companies, there are several reported cases of employees lending to co-employees the money that they themselves badly need. When a co-employee starts begging for assistance, an employee offers to lend his "last money" even if it means that he will end up borrowing the same amount of money from another employee. Worse, the lender assumes the responsibility of producing the amount required, and the pressure attached to it, by resorting to illegal means such as stealing another employee's belonging, taking any of the company's assets or pawning a jewelry owned by a family member. Come to think of it, such acts no longer show the value of "*pakikisama.*"

When self-respect is absent, friendship or camaraderie is not worth obtaining. The true value of "*pakikisama*" lies in the collaborative effort of those giving it or participating in it to work for the betterment of all the members. The product of "*pakikisama*" should be prosperity and not agony. While the values of selflessness and charity are welcome, an employee should take care of himself first, if he does not have the extra means to fend for himself, by learning how to say "no" to co-employees who usually ask for favors.

Unwanted pregnancy

There are many companies reporting cases of unwanted pregnancy among single employees. Employees interviewed during counseling sessions reveal that they manifest their affection to their partners through sexual relations. Some male employees, aware of this weakness among female employees, take advantage of the situation. In fairness, there are, however, partners who swear that both love each other to the very end.

Many companies now include responsible parenthood in the list of training being given not only to married female employees but also to both single mothers and single female employees. This is designed to tackle issues such as family planning, maternal/child health care, pre-marital sexual relations, sexually-transmitted diseases, love, courtship and marriage.

In the final analysis though, it is the inability of female employees to say "no" to advances made by their co-male employees that is the cause of their troubles. Interviews reveal that had they only been made aware of the consequences, female employees would not have resorted to some form of indiscretion. They swear that they could have been more discerning.

Drug dependency

Some companies likewise are now more cognizant of the need to have drug tests in their respective organizations. Although experiencing difficulty in proving drug dependency among employees, companies link up with concerned government agencies in order to help them weed out employees who are drug dependent. In the process, they are able to ensure a drug-free environment.

Again, it all boils down to the value of self-respect. Employees should try to avoid being put in compromising situations. By learning how to say "no" to drugs, "no" to cries for help from employees who invoke "*pakikisama*" to obtain favors, "no" to friendly persuasions coming from male employees who take advantage of the weakness of their co-female employees, and "no" to other forms of indiscretion and harmful acts, they are able to demonstrate the value of self-respect.

In the end, employees are well on their way to become not only responsible employees but also good citizens of the country. Everyone is then able to contribute to an organization and a society which have a prevailing environment of love, peace, harmony and unity.

As Sir John Frederick William Herschel put it, "Self-respect is the cornerstone of all virtues." Embracing such value even becomes more appropriate and meaningful during this love month of February.

Reactions may be made to *ernie@fcpp.fujitsu.co.jp*

GENERAL

The Asia Foundation is seeking to hire a qualified and dynamic

PROGRAM OFFICER

to manage the transparency and accountability program in the Foundation's Philippines program governance portfolio. The program officer will work with project partners, donors, and other related constituencies in the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the program.

The individual selected for this position will be highly motivated and prepared to assume significant responsibility for developing and implementing a multi-faceted grant-making program. Candidates should ideally possess a minimum of 5 years development-oriented professional experience in the Philippines, ideally in the field of governance and public policy, including local governance. A Master's or Professional degree is preferred, with a Bachelor's degree the minimum. Studies in the fields of political science, public administration, or economics are desirable. Candidates will be expected to demonstrate strong program management and verbal and written communication skills, as well as the ability to work with a wide range of partners, including senior government and private sector officials as well as NGOs. Experience with international donor-funded projects is preferred, but not required.

The Asia Foundation is an international private voluntary organization that has been supporting development programs in the Philippines since 1954. The position will be under a contract with full benefits and salary commensurate with experience. Please submit cover letter and resumé to:

The Asia Foundation
by email to general@asiafound.org.ph

or via mail to:
P.O. Box 7072,
Domestic Airport Post Office, Pasay City.

The deadline for applications is February 21, 2002.

Development Alternatives Inc. **(DAI)** is an international consulting firm whose mission is to assist business, government and civil society solve economic development problems. DAI is currently implementing a number of projects in the Philippines, and is always looking for talented technical, managerial, and support professionals for short-and long-term opportunities in the following areas:

Banking • Finance & Investment • Agriculture • Government and Civil Society • Information and Communication Technology • E-Commerce • International Trade • Environment • Transportation • Public Administration

The following qualifications are required for all appllicants:

- Bachelor's degree, Master's preferred, from an accredited university, especially in law or economics.
- Substantial (minimum 3 years) experience in related fields
- Strong written and oral English skills

To be considered for positions with DAI, please email your curriculum vitae to: agileinfo@dai.com, or mail it to:

AGILE, Attn: Human Resources
Units C and D, Strata 2000 Building
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

DAI is an equal opportunity employer and offers a competitive employment package.

SCAD Services (S) Pte., Ltd.

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Block 23 Phase IV
Rosario, Cavite

Come and join our fast growing organization as we are in an urgent need of the following personnel:

ASSISTANT MANAGER FOR TRAINING AND RECRUITMENT
- Male/Female; Must be 35 years old and above; Graduate of Management or Psychology preferably with Master's Degree in Industrial Relations; With at least (3) three years of experience in all phases of Human Resource Management and Training, preferably exposed in manufacturing company with over 1,000 employees is an advantage.

ASSISTANT SUPERVISORS (for production and maintenance)
- Male/Female at least 20-30 years old; Graduate of any Engineering course; With at least 6 months of supervisory work experience; Aggressive, analytical and assertive; Knowledge in machine operation for wooden product.

PROGRAMMER
- Male/Female between 21-27 years of age; Client Oriented; Knowledgeable in ORACLE, SQL, VISUAL BASIC AND NETWORKING Win NT/98, TCP/IP, PBX; PC troubleshooting (Hardware and Software); With six months experienced in the following:
  - Server/LAN Admin
  - Telephone Technician
  - Data Communication

OFFICE PERSONNEL
- Male/Female between 21-27 years old; Graduate of Industrial Engineering, Computer Science or any computer related course; Knowledge in Auto Cad is an advantage; With experience in office work, people oriented and can work on extended hours.

PRODUCTION BASED

TRUCK HEAD DRIVER (urgent hiring)
- Male at least 30 up to 40 years of age; High School or Vocational Course (related in auto mechanic); Experience in Driving Truck Head; Skills in Heavy Equipment Mechanic; With professional Driver's License (R Code - 6 & 3, 2, 1)

MAINTENANCE STAFF
- Male between 20-27 years old; Vocational or College Graduate; At least 1 year experience as electrician, mechanic, welder; Can read electrical diagram symbol; Must be familiar in manufacturing machine trouble; Knowledge in compressor repair; Knowledge in AVR control

FORKLIFT OPERATOR (urgent hiring)
- At least High School; Vocational or College Level; Male between 20-27 years old; With 6 months experience in forklift operation; With Professional Driver's License; With good moral character

FACILITY STAFF
- At least High School, Vocational or College Level; Male between 20-27 years old; With knowledge and skills in carpentry, plumbing, planning and scheduling; Physically well built and able body; With good moral character

You can mail or handcarry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call telephone no. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian, Dada or Wella and you can e-mail your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com (No attachment).

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SALES & MARKETING MANAGER

BEAUTY THERAPHY – SKIN CARE INDUSTRY

We seek a female, college graduate in Business Administration/ Marketing or similar. Must have excellent English skills, both written and verbal. Plus speak Tagalog, Cebuano and other dialects. Be computer literate. Have a high level of self-motivation and be able to motivate and lead others. Show a friendly, confident and outgoing personality and be of the highest integrity.

EXPERIENCE: Minimum of five years in a sales/marketing position(s) within the Beauty Therapy – Skin Care/Pharmaceutical/Medical or Cosmetic industries and have knowledge of skin care treatments and products.

DUTIES: Develop, implement and control effective strategies to:
[1] Increase sales of services offered by our own Beauty Clinic.
[2] Establish a significant market share with skin care professionals nationwide for a new international brand range of premium skin treatment products for which we are the exclusive Philippine distributors.
[3] Conduct product training for our own therapists, sales persons and skin care customers in the use of the above range.

REWARDS: An income package will be negotiated that will reflect the importance of this appointment to the future development of our company.

TO APPLY: Firstly if you feel you have the qualities to make a success of this position, register your interest by contacting Ms. Abis at our office and obtain an expanded description of this opportunity. Final applications must be made in writing and include your full contact details, Curriculum Vitae, Transcript of records, copies of education certificates etc., two commercial, plus two personal character references and a recent full length photo. These can be forwarded by either post or e-mail. Interviews will be conducted with suitable applicants, end of February, early March.

ANIMUR SALES, INC.
2nd Floor MG Building, 150 Amorsolo Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City
Telephone: 815-0029, 815-0037 E-mail animursales@vasia.com

RAKSO AIR TRAVEL & TOURS, INC.

We are in need of Filipinos who can speak Korean Language for the following positions:

AIRPORT REPRESENTATIVE

INBOUND TOUR GUIDES

(pref. DOT accredited)

Qualifications:
1. Not more than 40 years old
2. At least 2 years of college in any field of studies
3. Pleasing personality, highly-motivated, resourceful and creative

Please submit the following:
1. Comprehensive bio-data with 2x2 colored photo
2. NBI Clearance (2002)

G/F All Seasons Building (formerly Ricogen)
112 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT
-CPA, male/female, single, 25 to 35 yrs
- w/ experience in general accounting using computerized acctg system

MARKETING ASST
-male/female, single, 22 to 30 yrs
-college graduate, computer literate
-good communication skills

STORE SUPERVISORS
-male/female, single, 25 to 35 yrs
-college graduate, computer literate
-w/ experience as supervisor in a restaurant/food chain

STOCK CLERKS
-male, single, 22 to 30 yrs
-college graduate, computer literate
-w/ experience in a food chain

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
-male/ female, single, 22 to 30 yrs
-Accountancy graduate
-computer literate

PURCHASING CLERK
-male/female, single, 22 to 30 yrs
-college graduate, computer literate
-w/ experience in a food chain

CASHIERS
-male/female, single, 22 to 30 yrs
-college graduate, computer literate
- w/ experience in a food chain
-proficient in English

SERVICE CREWS (for Alabang)
-male/female, single, 20 to 25 yrs
-at least 2nd yr college
-proficient in English

Apply in person w/bio-data, 2x2 pictures, NBI clearance, transcript, medical, Mon to Sat from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at:

Taters Enterprises, Inc. 2004 Cityland Pasong Tamo Tower
2210 Don Chino Roces Ave. (Pasong Tamo), Makati City

HONDA

HONDA CARS QUEZON CITY, INC.

A YGC Company

The leader among franchised Honda dealers is in need of top-notch, dynamic, and result-oriented individuals to fill vacant positions in different branches:

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Marketing or any college course graduate
- Good oral and written communication skills with pleasing personality
- Aggressive and hardworking
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

Interested applicants may personally come or send their resumé with 2x2 colored picture to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
HONDA CARS QUEZON CITY, INC.
141 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Email address: hcqc-hrd@compass.com.ph
Fax No. 712-6945

A WELL ESTABLISHED FIRST CLASS RETAIL COMPANY IS IN NEED OF TOP CALIBER INDIVIDUALS TO APPLY AS

INFORMATION SYSTEMS AUDITOR

Code: R - ISA

- At least 28 years of age, male or female
- Graduate of a four (4)-year degree course
- With at least two (2) years actual work exposure in Information Systems or IS Audit
- With external or internal audit job experience
- Analytical and must have good communication skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality, positive work attitude, impeccable integrity and good moral character
- Highly motivated and results-oriented
- Must be hardworking

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Classified Ads Division
5th Floor, Bldg., B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)
PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Mini Job Fair AT Onstage GREENBELT

Nothing would afford us more pleasure than to bring you the second run of Mini Job Fair this year. The **INQUIRER's JOB MARKET** carries on to meet the needs of our advertisers in picking the right professionals among the bunch.

On **February 18 and 19, 2002**, **JOB MARKET** will hold a **Mini Job Fair** at the city's latest venue in Greenbelt, Makati – **Onstage.**

Fill-out our Resumé Reserve form via computer or bring your resumés intended for any of the following companies:

---

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ATMI
Australian New Zealand Bank
Center for Educational
Character Unlimited
Chemical Alloy
Chinabank
Clean City Commercial, Inc.
FEP Printing Corporation
Globaltech Industrial
Honda Cars Quezon City
Interwave Communication
Jazdale Enterprise
JIMAC
Kendeigh
Kidz World Theme Parks
L.G. Atkimson Import & Export
Malayan Insurance Company
Manila Consulting
Medicard Philippines
MOF Company, Inc.
Moldex Realty Marketing
Navitaire
Orchard Property
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Platinum Plans Phils., Inc.
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Rainbow Philippines
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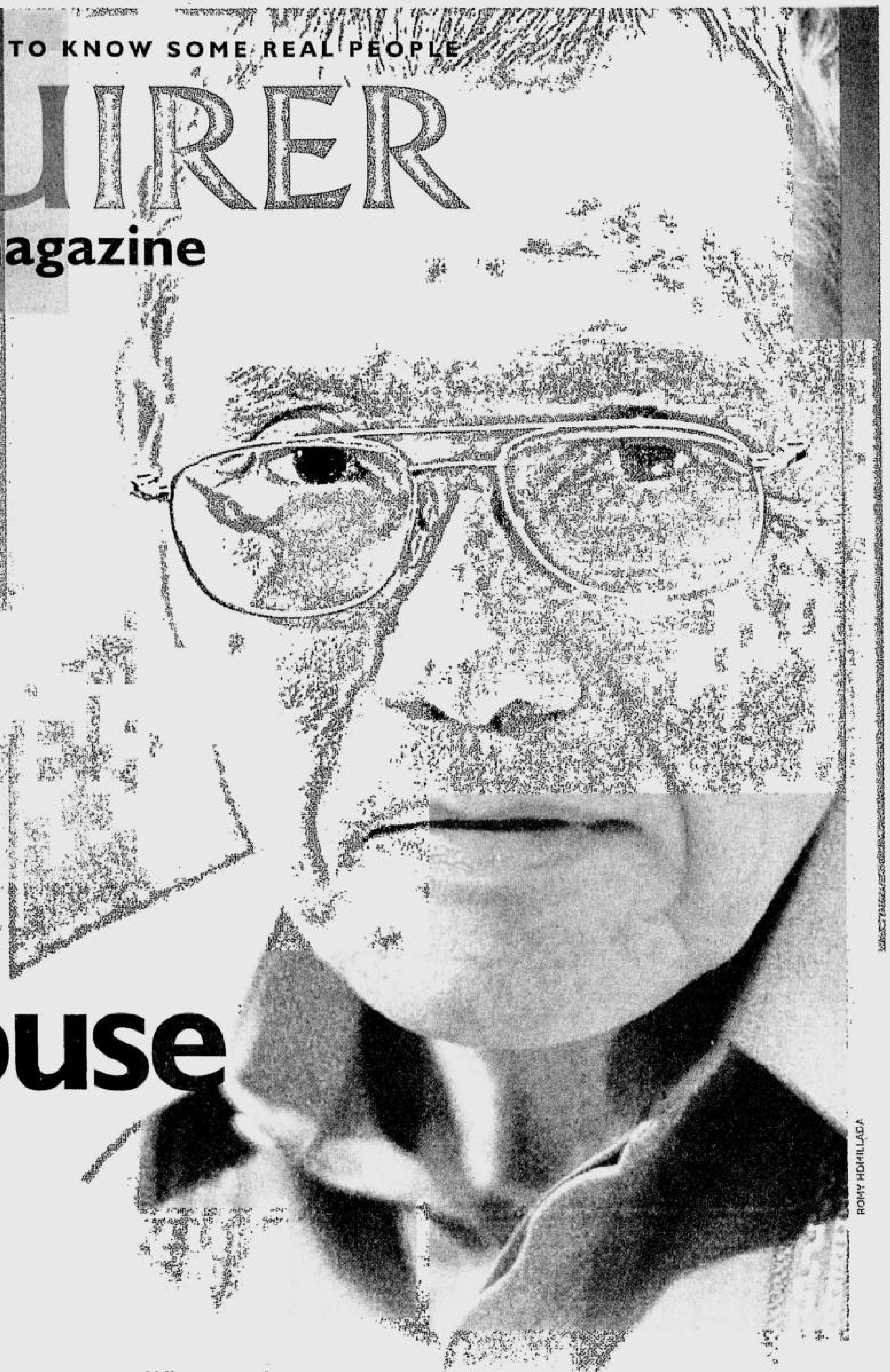
February 17, 2002


ROMY HOMILLADA

Aniano Desierto

Order in the House

Who exactly is the embattled Ombudsman, and why are his many detractors so keen on getting him impeached? Amidst accusations of corruption, Aniano Desierto says the attacks are "vindictive and personal," while his children paint a picture of "a man who is only doing his job"

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE TROUBLE with Ombudsman Aniano Desierto is that he's doing his job, he says.

Since he assumed office in August 1995, Ani, as his colleagues call him, has been embroiled in not one, but countless conflicts. The severity of the issues cannot be downplayed; three of them ended up in the hallowed halls of the House of Representatives.

Desierto seems to attract criticism from all sides of the political fence. His is a personality that pushes people to scrutinize his controversial decisions or his office's quasi-judicial actions.

Is it the man or the job? Is Desierto today the embodiment of the Ombudsman, cloaked by the nation's founding fathers with immense powers to safeguard the people's welfare? Or is he just being himself—a stern-looking martial law prosecutor, a fault-finder?

For one, he is the only head of a constitutional body credited with indicting a former President for high crimes of corruption and economic plunder. When he charged ex-President Joseph Estrada at the Sandiganbayan on April 4, 2001 for allegedly plundering more than P4 billion from the nation's coffers, Desierto admittedly made history.

At one point last year, Desierto's resolve to pin down Estrada and his influential cohorts became a gauge of the new administration's determination to purge the bureaucracy. Yet, more than six moths after, a lawmaker and a lawyer are accusing him of the very crimes he has vowed to erase from the bureaucracy since Day One in office.

When SIM caught up with him one Friday night, this Cebuano was his usual formal presence, exuding confidence in his light-blue *barong*. He says he will never allow anyone to destroy the Ombudsman's Office so that the next Ombudsman will not be subjected to the same attacks he's suffering now.

Even as Desierto puts on a brave face when he confronts the public, the 67-year-old Ombudsman is far from being the cold, isolated bureaucrat at home. Daughter Diane, the youngest in a brood of three and an economics *summa cum laude* graduate, describes him as a "homebody who is home by 6 p.m." Her father, says Diane, a second year Law student at the University of the Philippines, "knows what's happening to us despite his super busy schedule. He even knows the paper I'm writing."

Dante, another economics *cum laude* graduate, sees his father as a "very strict" disciplinarian. "His no.1 rule is no girlfriends or boyfriends while one is studying. Once he discovers that you're in a relationship, that's it, you're out." The 26-year-old youngest Desierto son, who is also a UP law graduate, however, agrees with Diane that the beleaguered Ombudsman has "a high regard for his family."

Desierto has a curfew rule as well: "Everyone should be home before 6 p.m.," he says. "If they have to do research work or group studies, I have to know." The third rule is obvious: no suitors at home. "If a guest is coming, I should be informed ahead of time and for what purpose," he stresses.

He expects excellence as well from his three children. "When you have to do something do it now; and do the best you can," he tells them often. His children apparently approve of the way he has handled family matters as well as the crisis Desierto is currently facing. "He's doing the right thing. There's no other way to do it," they insist.

Diane, Dante and Desiree, a UP Mass Comm graduate, are Desierto's children with Cebuana Teresita Alferez. He has eight other children from his previous marriage, all of them now married. Desierto's marriage to Elizabeth Reyes Palanca was annulled in the '70s. She is now living in Australia after marrying a scion of the Leroux clan.

Asked what he'll do in the next seven months before he retires, Desierto says he will not just fade into the night. "I will continue doing my job well. I will prosecute the cases in the best way I can."

After August 30, he wants to go back to private practice and put up his own law firm. "I will still help the prosecution in the Estrada trial as a private consultant. But I won't go into politics. I've been a criminal lawyer all my life and I want it that way. If I wanted politics, I should have entered it long ago."

Despite the weight of the Estrada trial and his own battles, Desierto seems to exude the feeling that he is in control of everything. He claims he is being attacked by his detractors, not because he is Aniano Desierto, but because he is going after the crooks and top grafters in the government. "They have been attacking me ever since I started to implement fully the mandate of the Office of the Ombudsman. The Constitution empowers the Office to be the protector of the people from abuses and anomalies in the government. And that's what I do."

Problem is, he says, every time he goes after grafters, he has to sever his ties with loyal friends and powerful allies in the government. "It's painful. But I have to do it. If I've been remiss in my duties, I will not suffer this fate. I'll have many friends instead."

Desierto admits that part of his problem is the "perception game." He doesn't enjoy very good press because of his military background in the Judge Advocate General's Office. He explains that his predecessor, Ombudsman Conrado Vasquez did not suffer the same fate because the latter did not issue controversial rulings and was not as aggressive in prosecuting cases. When he took over the office in 1995, the office had 38,000 cases in backlog. "Now there is no backlog; all cases have been disposed off. All our pending investigations are new cases," he says.

He admits to not caring much about his public appearance. "I care more for the people whose rights are trampled on and bastardized by the very people whom they trusted. This country will never be great as long as we are beholden to the powers-that-be at the expense of the poor. Justice must be dispensed equally, fairly."

While Filipinos were polarized into two distinct and irreconcilable blocs during the repressive Marcos era, Desierto's nemeses seem to have diverse motives and politics. Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and former ACCRA lawyer Ernesto Francisco (who spearheaded the impeach

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With a hot TV game show, Arnel Ignacio is on a roll

ment move) pale in comparison to the stature and "gallantry" of his former critics, says Desierto. These include former Makati Representative and now Senator Joker Arroyo, former Senator now Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, Comelec chair and now Presidential Commission on Good Government chair Haydee Yorac, former Parañaque Representative and now national security adviser Roilo Golez, and former Senator and now Education secretary Raul Roco, among others.

His staunch allies then included Speaker Jose De Venecia, the Cebu bloc of the House, and solons Raul Daza, Neptali Gonzales II, Mariano Tajon, Nereo Joaquin and Pedro Romualdo.

Among the charges against Desierto were his acquisition of a P6.5-million Tierra Pura property in 1996, allegedly without the consent of his first wife Elizabeth, and the alleged discounted purchase of 10 television sets from a lawyer-businessman implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

The impeachment move, however, fizzled out amidst the failure of Desierto's detractors to gather enough support for the complaint in the House. After only two sessions, the solons vouched for Desierto's integrity with a vote of 164 against 14, effectively junking the complaint.

The most recent complaints, lodged by Moreno and Francisco, accuse him of sitting on a case involving the lawyer's former client, realtor and banker Luke Roxas, allegedly in exchange for half a million pesos in bribes and camera parts. "Silly, very silly," mutters Desierto. "An Ombudsman on the take just for half a million pesos? And receiving it personally from a person who's a stranger in the presence of his lawyer? Am I that stupid?"

Interestingly, Roxas executes an affidavit disowning Francisco, even calling him a liar. The House committee on Justice later voted down the complaint for "insufficiency in substance." With the apparent defeat of the first complaint, Moreno, who endorsed it to the House secretary-general, came out with a second complaint, this time accusing Desierto of bungling the government's probe and prosecution of the tax credit scam cases.

In a privilege speech last January 23, Moreno accuses Desierto of whitewashing the P5.3-billion tax credit certificate probe by allegedly filing weak cases, and even exempting a Chinese couple, Faustino and Gloria Chingkoe, and executives of Pilipinas Shell and Petron Corporation from prosecution. (As of press time, the House has overwhelmingly voted down the impeachment complaint.)

Desierto says Moreno is just "deceiving the public" and "bastardizing the impeachment process." He asks, "How could he say that I whitewashed the investigation on the tax credit scam and filed cases that are fatally flawed and designed to be dismissed, when my office has just started its preliminary investigation on the cases?."

Desierto maintains his innocence and dismisses the second complaint as another form of "pure harassment." He has come under renewed attack, he says, for three reasons. First, "so that I will be using up most of my time addressing this harassment and won't be able to concentrate on studying cases that are controversial." Second, "for the personal aggrandizement of those harassing me." And third, because "those who have cases filed against them by the Ombudsman are now being vindictive. My conscience is clear," he insists. "The records are clear and there is nothing at all that is irregular."

Desierto recently asked Moreno to stop teaching the Ombudsman's Office how to handle criminal prosecution, since, he says, the congressman from Misamis Oriental is not a criminal lawyer but a bank lawyer. In both complaints, Desierto says the motive is "purely personal. He just wants to perpetuate his role as the impeachment prosecutor."

He will not, he stresses, spend his remaining months in office or years of his life trying to endear himself to politicians or the media. "Sometimes, the most popular persons are the most corrupt," he notes.

Desierto finished law in 1957 and soon after joined the local media in Cebu as a radio reporter, commentator and newscaster. He later became program and production manager of the Cebu Broadcasting Company and provincial manager of the Manila Broadcasting Company. He went into private practice until he joined the government variously as prosecutor in the Armed Forces, special prosecutor of the justice department, Deputy Judge Advocate General of the AFP, special prosecutor of the defunct Tanodbayan, and finally as Ombudsman in 1995.

During his watch, the Ombusdman's office has charged in court a former president, two former first ladies, a former vice president, 17 cabinet members, two ambassadors, six congressmen, 18 governors, 523 mayors and 62 military/police generals and personnel. "We need to develop a Filipino psyche of honesty, integrity and discipline."

He points out that he harbors no ill feelings toward his former detractors, but stresses, "With truth on my side and with my conscience clear, I can make it.

"Life is short," Desierto concludes, "but it's worth living, especially when you know that you've done your part well."

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The Cover Image Who exactly is the embattled Ombudsman, and why are his many detractors so keen on getting Aniano Desierto impeached?
Photograph by Romy Homillada

PHILMUSIC ON MARTIN

THANKS for mentioning PhilMusic.com in Eric Caruncho's Martin Nievera tell-all piece "Unfluffed" (**SIM**, 3 February 2002) about the unauthorized use of a Diane Warren composition in his album. Well written, we do have to take exception to some implications made in the piece. Mr. Caruncho quotes extensively from PhilMusic's one and only story on the matter but fails to follow up leads and sources we mentioned, giving the impression that we somehow concocted or embellished the story. These sources would have to include: a) Members of the professional songwriters' association Katha, who effectively acted as the whistleblowers in the case; and b) Atty. Marivic Benedicto of Verje Music, who represents EMI in the Philippines, which in turn represents Realsongs, Ms.Warren's music publishing company. Realsongs, through Verje, did take legal action against MCA Universal (Philippines).

Other leads that could have been followed up:

a) MCA Universal, notably its big boss Ramon Chuaying, who was familiar with the situation. We did get a call from Mr. Chuaying himself after we ran our story so we now have an inside understanding of the circumstances.

b) Ms. Julie Horton, EVP of Realsongs. According to a letter we received from Atty. Benedicto of Verje Music last January, MCA Universal did agree to remove the song "To Say Goodbye" from "My Souvenirs," then re-release the album without the disputed song. This is how the case was settled, not by granting permission to MCA Universal to use the song. MCA Universal in turn promised to submit sales figures and other data regarding the single. How the case will proceed from here will be up to Realsongs. But in the end, Diane Warren never did grant authorization to use her song.

The interview has Mr. Nievera saying he never heard there was a problem until PhilMusic ran the story. Not true; he had already received a telephone call from a member of Katha about the copyright infringement situation (and the correct author of the song), which allowed Mr. Nievera to finally give the correct credit when he received an award at the TV show "SOP" the next day.

By all appearances, Mr. Nievera's professed ignorance of the details involved in the production is his defense, and it certainly paints a picture of him being clueless and out of the loop in the making of his album. The main fault lies with the record company's lack of due diligence. However, he continues to show that same ignorance in discussing the case with the media. For his own good and for his own credibility, it would really help him if he can have his record company just come clean with him about the details of the situation once and for all.

Finally, if someone asks what the big deal was all about: Even if it wasn't a top selling Filipino artist getting embroiled in a copyright infringement case, the main issue is – could this have happened before with an unknown, struggling songwriter? Katha was doing the right thing when they pointed out the anomaly; they were acting in behalf of the rights of songwriters everywhere.

As for the charge that we ran the piece to pick up some publicity: We believed the issue involved a composer's rights being violated, and that made the subject newsworthy enough to report on.

All in all, Eric Caruncho is still my idol, though. Keep on truckin'!

JIM AYSON
PhilMusic.com

Noteworthy

Mantas in Peril

Environmentalists are demanding an explanation as to why the ban on the killing of manta rays has been lifted – and the reasons seem more political than scientific

JURGEN FREUND

A slaughtered manta ray is carried up a beach

AFTER four years of spotty protection by the Philippine government, it looks like manta rays, one of the most fascinating and beautiful creatures in the Philippine seas, are in trouble again.

In 1998, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources imposed a nationwide ban on the hunting of manta rays and whale sharks. Recently, however, it was reported that BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento had recommended the lifting of the ban. Early last week, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Leonardo Montemayor, signed the order, despite objections from both the scientific and environmental communities, as voiced by WWF-Philippines President Lory Tan, Silliman University Marine Lab Director Dr. Hilconida Calumpong, Haribon Foundation Executive Director Atty. Hector Soliman, and reknowned marine expert Dr. Angel Alcala. An internal recommendation from a technical group with BFAR, stating that a lifting of the ban was not necessary in order to perform a proper stock assessment, was also disregarded.

This amendment to FAO 193 (which bans the taking or catching, selling, purchasing and possession, transport and export of whale sharks and manta rays) will benefit only a few whale shark and manta hunters at the expense of small fishermen and coastal communities, who make up the greater majority. As adults, the giant manta rays have few predators. Unfortunately, their size provides no defense against the spears, fishnets and reef bombs of man.

Scientists know very little else about the manta's biology, other than the important fact that the manta ray and other filter feeders of its family maintain the balance of our seas. By feeding on plankton and other primary producers, they help maintain the balance of the food chain and keep our seas clean. They also control the levels of oxygen in our seas, allowing fish, crabs, clams and marine animals to live and thrive along our coastal areas.

Ina Pozon

For more information, you can call the Department of Agriculture at 9288741. You can also call WWF at 4333220 or email kkp@wwf-phil.org.ph

Poetry

Getting the Message

In the morning Ada sends Roy a note
by cellphone. It arrives only at dinnertime.
Where do all the words stay all day?
And it isn't just Ada who complains:
Prixie too, and Bj. They get home before
their words do. Words go everywhere:

I'm coming over wait for me perches
on the shoulders of a cashier counting
change, hahaha nice joke sticks between
the lettuce and tomato of an Aloha Burger,
I love you drive safely floats on the sewers
and spills out into the sea. No one knows

exactly where these texts are, the way no one
sees mayas go to die. A message may linger
in air like a flying kiss, then the wind blows
it back to one's face. A kiss is complete
only in another's mouth and tongue, like how
a writer needs a listener for the words

to be whole, like when the mad talk
to themselves and set speech adrift in air
only to drown in the loneliness of no one
listening. Yet Ada's message arrives.
Roy shows it to her, the words laid out
in the little coffin of the cellphone.

Vincenz C. Serrano

Nagmamadaling mga Taludtod
(kay Abbey)

Pinagbaga ng aking marubdob na pag-ibig
ang iyong talampakan,
at pumaimbulog kang
lapnos ang damdamin at isip
sa kalawakan ng walang katiyakang paglukso
ng mga gunitang para sa iyo, para sa akin,
gaano man ito kalupit.

Danilo R. dela Cruz, Jr.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine accepts contributions for our regular poetry section. Interested contributors should send a printed copy of the poem (which may be in English or Filipino) together with a self-addressed stamped envelope to Ruel S. De Vera, poetry editor, Sunday Inquirer Magazine, Chino Roces (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Mascardo and Yague Streets, Makati City 1263, or e-mail to <sim@inquirer.com.ph>

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Onstage
By Alya B. Honasan

On Familiar Ground

After a year of momentous life changes, actress Joy Soler de Castro comes home to the stage in a juicy role as one of Philippine history's most well-known stage mothers

ROMY HOMILLADA

SINCE her last turn as Hamlet's mother in Shakespeare's tragedy last year, a lot of changes have rocked the life of actress-turned-events planner Joy Soler de Castro. In March 2001, after almost 23 years of marriage, her husband, the renowned writer-director Pio de Castro, passed away after seven years in a coma. During this time, Joy took care of her husband and worked tirelessly at her big-league events planning company, Events Plus, to earn a living. "It may have been exhausting to make sure the resources were available," Joy recalls now, "but taking care of Pio was easy. I never felt burdened, because I always felt that Somebody was also taking care of me."

Then, also last year, Joy went through chemotherapy after her second lumpectomy since she was first diagnosed with breast cancer in 1998. "The aloneness doesn't scare me," says Joy, who is a doting aunt and owner of three shih tzus, but has no children of her own. "I realized that when you're sick and 51 and alone, you wonder who's going to take care of you. But I know I have the love of family and friends."

By the end of 2001, however, getting used to life after Pio saw Joy falling into a depression. She went on leave from work to avoid the stress, and got herself back on course by attending a soul-searching retreat. And then she accepted an offer from Tanghalang Pilipino artistic director and old friend Nonon Padilla to join the cast of *"Ang Pagkapatay kay Luna,"* a musicale by Paul Dumol and Jesse Lucas on the machinations that led to the murder of the tempestuous revolutionary general. "I figured, I must go back to what I used to do, whatever stimulated me, since I have to start a life of my own now."

Indeed, the juicy role of *Doña* Trinidad Famy Aguinaldo or *Doña* Teneng, the ultimate stage mother of Emilio Aguinaldo who was believed to have masterminded the murder of Antonio Luna, is just the kind of role for Joy, one of Philippine stage's finest actresses. An original member of the first Kalinangan Ensemble of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) in 1967, she began acting in school at St. Paul's, where she studied communications and was once told by a nun that she couldn't sing. "The moment she told me that, I swear, my throat began to swell." The role of *Doña* Teneng requires her to perform a gruff, angry song full of spite for her son's nemesis, a critical moment in the play when her character (who allegedly sat in during her son's first cabinet meetings as revolutionary Philippine president) decides that Luna must be stopped.

Joy plays mother to Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, as played by Miguel Vera

"I may not be a mother, but I can understand her, what motivated her," Joy says of *Doña* Teneng. "She believed that Luna was a threat not only to Aguinaldo's position, but to his life. She really built her son up, even working on his grades, his diploma. If you worked that hard to get him there, you won't let just anybody stop you." Upon the advice of director Padilla and playwright Dumol, Joy is playing the Caviteña and erstwhile tobacco factory supervisor as an "overtly strong" Filipina – *"may abilidad, marunong humawak ng tao."* (With abilities, and she knew how to handle people.)

The fact that "Luna" is a musicale was an added attraction "I thought it was a good time to confront the last of my three great fears, which was singing on stage," laughs Joy. And what were the other two fears? "Swimming, which is why I learned to swim at 45, and driving, which I learned at 47!"

If she didn't have to earn a living, Joy can see herself as a full-time actress, although she would still choose her roles well. "Luna" is a welcome return to the Pilipino language, after doing Shakespeare, Albee, Ibsen and, a few years back, an electric Candida in Nick Joaquin's "Portrait of the Artist as A Filipino," directed by Anton Juan.

Still, as they say, life is every actor's greatest training ground and source of material. "The years of taking care of Pio have changed me, made me more patient, more understanding of what might be the conditions that make something happen." Time was when she would "beat myself to death for bungling my lines, but now I'm more forgiving of myself. Maybe it's because I don't feel I have to prove anything to anybody. I'm just here to enjoy the moment, and I take on the theater because I find pleasure

On hindsight, as Pio's first death anniversary rolls around in March, one can't help but ask: What did her late great husband think of Joy Soler the actress? "He never showered me with the lavish praise I heard from others," Joy says wistfully, with a mock pout. "But then again, I always, always got my opening night flowers."

(Tanghalang Pilipino's "Ang Pagkapatay kay Luna" *by Paul Dumol and Jesse Lucas, directed by Nonon Padilla, goes onstage at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino on February 22 at 8 p.m. and February 17, 23 and 24 at 2:30 p.m.)*

New in the Philippines
(a discovery so amazing, so certain, that you can try without risking a single peso)

When they saw my new breasts my friends could not believe their eyes!

Without any surgery, in less than two weeks, my breasts have become higher, firmer and more voluminous. There are dozens of treatment for breasts but this one is really unique. Let me show you how it works.

"It's incredible. I finally got the breasts that I always dreamed of. And I thought that only surgery could bring about such visible results, I was mistaken," declares Carol Leleu. She explains below how she obtained her very beautiful bust - you could have it too...

I should first specify that I never had big breasts. And when I got my first baby, I realized that in addition to that, they became less firm and they fell a bit... for me it was a catastrophe and I tried all sorts of creams and gadgets. But these did not change anything. I even contemplated aesthetic surgery but it was expensive and I was afraid of it.

I think I would have given anything just to have firmer and well-rounded breasts. But I was arriving at the conclusion that there was no solution at all for me, until one day when I went on vacation by the seaside in France with a friend.

Irresistible Breasts

One day while putting a swimsuit I confided my problem to my friend. It was at this moment that she talked to me about this famous procedure she discovered a few years ago.

I must admit that the results are stupefying. At forty years old, my friend has superb breasts, to such a point that, while walking by the seaside in monokini, she attracted the attention of a lot of people.

I should say that I envy her! She explained to me that she had the same problem after the birth of her son.

She told me too that before she discovered "Bustcream" (this is the name of the treatment), she had much smaller breasts. And thanks to this treatment, she grew from 80 cm to 90 cm in her breast line in just a few months.

I just wanted to believe her, specially when she told me that there was absolutely no medication to take, absolutely no exercise to do and that this fantastic procedure had nothing to do with any cream that you see in the market today!

In conclusion, she added: "You will see, you will notice some change right from the very first few days and at the end of the vacation you will have a bust as big as mine... perhaps even more beautiful because you are younger than me."

Me who has such a big complex with my bust

It should be noted that for a long time, I had a big complex with my bust. I would have wanted so much to have round and firm breasts and perhaps breasts with more volume... Therefore, I decided to order.

My friend seemed to be so convinced, that I wanted to try it myself. Anyway, I was risking nothing, the results were guaranteed if not I had nothing to pay. A few days later, I received my "Bustcream" treatment.

I had nothing to do but to follow the simple instructions. Everything was clearly explained.

Why does it work?

Actually, your breasts possess a certain number of adipose cells that are non-functional (see Schema 1 above). This is the reason why breasts fall and lose their firmness. Thanks to the action of "Bustcream" these adipose cells are stimulated and become functional again (see Schema 2 above), which gives to your breasts their roundness, firmness and volume. Read the article above to be able to know how to provoke this process.

Here are the exact results that I was able to obtain in less than fifteen days

I immediately began my treatment. It's true that it is very simple and agreeable... I could affirm that after two or three sessions, by looking at my profile at the mirror, I could see a real change already.

Of course I continued, and after each session I saw with delight my bust becoming firmer, more shapely and gaining a bit more volume. After eleven days the results were really fantastic. Even my friend could not believe her own eyes.

I remember my husband during the first evening of my return from vacation. He was dumbfounded. "What did you do? Your breasts are superb! Have you had a bust lift during your vacation?" And I told him: "No, I just followed a treatment called "Bustcream"."

It has been three months since I discovered "Bustcream" and I am the first one stupefied to realize that my breasts have completely transformed themselves.

I have told it to my aesthetician who couldn't believe her eyes (she explains these amazing results due to the fact that this process acts upon the glandular tissues by light contractions and on the internal fibers by activating the blood circulation). She then asked me to order a treatment for her.

Today I know she promotes "Bustcream" to her clients after the birth of a child or after a too rapid weight loss. This is to tell you that even my aesthetician has been enthralled by "Bustcream".

I now know that this treatment is available in the Philippines and this is the reason why I accepted to share my experience, to allow other women who would like to have beautiful breasts to discover this extraordinary treatment."
- Carol Leleu

A scientific process and not a miracle!

The originality of this unique treatment lies in the fact that it combines several indispensable actions for the regeneration of the bust.
- Immediate action on the body of the breasts. "Bustcream" restores to the skin its elasticity and firmness, thus creating a veritable natural bra that gives "body" to your breasts.
- Durable and lasting effect. By acting upon the capillaries under the skin, the "Bustcream" process provokes and stimulates the cellular activity of the muscle fibers of the bust. Tired tissues become firm again, glands are stimulated, blood circulation is activated, the adipose cells grow in size and take on life again, which has an overall effect of provoking a veritable regeneration of your breasts.
- Results that are really visible. From the very first few sessions, by passing your hands over your breasts you can feel how much firmer they are, and by looking at yourself in profile at the mirror, you will be amazed to see at what point your breasts have already remodeled themselves.

In fifteen days, "with a tape measure in your hands", you will realize that your breasts have gained volume. In addition to that, your skin will be firmer and more supple...and therefore, more agreable to caress. Your partner will certainly not fail to notice it.

Now, obtain the breasts of your dreams

Do you want to try this new process yourself? To have breasts that are firm, high and shapely without ever resorting to aesthetic surgery.

Perhaps you have already tried different products, creams or gadgets without any convincing results. Now you can forget all of it.

Even if you have already raised several children, your breasts should become firmer. Even if your breasts are almost inexistent, you should be able to see them take on volume. You should be able to realize it without any doubt within fifteen days:
- Breasts that are slightly more voluminous
- Breasts that are higher with more body
- Softer and firmer skin

The first "Bustcream" treatment is for FREE. Here is our offer.

Simply cut and send the enclosed coupon. When you will receive your package, you will receive two treatments. First of all, use the first treatment (the trial treatment). Follow the instructions that will be given you. It will just take a few minutes to read the instructions and from the very first few sessions you should be able to obtain visible results from your mirror.

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You have fifteen days to realize that your breasts stays more firm and more shapely

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☐ breasts with more volume.

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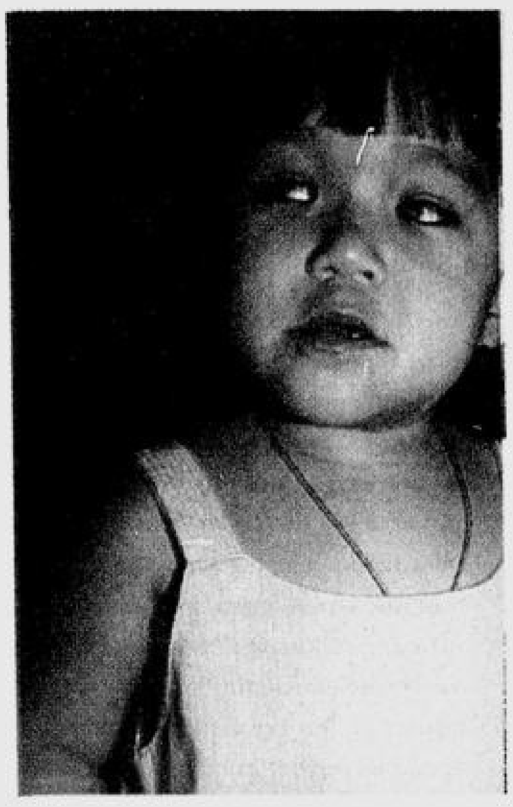
For A Cause

By Dulce Festin-Baybay

Photographs by Johnny Villena

Another Chance

He was imprisoned in a box, she was blinded by malnutrition. Thanks to Bantay Bata 163, which marks its fifth anniversary this month, these kids are getting a fresh start in their young lives



Child survivors Jessie (above) and Annalyn (right) today

FOR A child, a box can contain a gift, a toy or perhaps food. But for Jessie, a box was his home and his prison.

The public learned of Jessie, then 5, and his box last February 1997. A concerned citizen, who could no longer stand the boy's suffering, reported that, somewhere in Caloocan City, a child was being handcuffed by his guardian. The caller also revealed that the child was kept in a box made of wood with just a mosquito net for a cover. The box was kept under the sink of a dirty kitchen.

After receiving the call, the Bantay Bata 163 team, accompanied by the barangay captain, a social worker, and some police officers, immediately rescued Jessie from his "jail box." After undergoing a medical check-up, Jessie was placed under protective custody and sheltered at the BB 163 Children's Home in Quezon City. A case of child abuse was also filed against the child's guardian at the Caloocan Regional Trial Court.

Based on the case summary prepared by the social worker who rescued Jessie, the severely malnourished child was only being fed rice porridge and *pandesal*, the bread sometimes already covered with mold. This went on from the time a four-month-old Jessie was given to his guardian, and continued until his rescue.

His unknown parents abandoned Jessie, and his guardian physically abused him. The box was where he ate and slept. When Jessie would defecate, he would be brought to the bathroom and even beaten with a stick. Neighbors often heard him crying.

When the boy was admitted, the attending psychologist reported that Jessie physically resembled a two-year-old child, weighing just 13 pounds. He had frail, thin legs, which made him very clumsy, and he fell all the time. He was not toilet-trained. His intellectual activity was limited to sensory observation, and he spoke to himself in whispers and murmurs. He was also often found rocking himself whether seated or standing.

Today, after five years of physical and emotional nurturing and comprehensive rehabilitation by doctors, psychologists and therapists at the Children's Home, Jessie has gradually improved his self-help skills, socialization and cognitive functioning. He is enrolled at a speech and development learning center, and last March 2001, was given three awards for performance, improved speech, and for being the most helpful pupil.

Jessie is learning to develop trust towards adults and is displaying signs of security. He can now establish eye contact when spoken to, although he is still a restless 10-year-old who continuously explores his environment. He instantly hugs visitors who greet him, seeking out warmth, something he did not experience in the first five years of his life.

Documentary evidence of child abandonment is being gathered in order for Jessie to be legally free for permanent placement through adoption. Alternative parental care is also being considered. Nowadays, when Jessie sees a box, he looks inside it for a real toy.

ANNALYN is a chubby, bubbly four-year-old who loves to touch people's faces. That's because Annalyn is now blind due to severe malnutrition. Food rich in Vitamin A, like the common *malunggay* and *kalabasa*, could have saved her eyesight.

Annalyn's father abandoned their family in 1996. Annalyn, her two older sisters (aged 7 and 8) and their mother Cyril were left in their tiny home in Samar. Cyril found work as a housekeeper.

Last May 2001, Annalyn's mother and her former employer brought Annalyn to BB163 for medical assistance. She was initially diagnosed as suffering from corneal ulcer. A corneal transplant was recommended and immediately performed on Annalyn at the Makati Medical Center by a team of eye specialists, with the help of donors who answered a public appeal for assistance. With thick glasses, Annalyn was able to see again.

Last Christmas, after a short stay at the Children's Home, the child was reunited with her mother. Unfortunately, her eyes had become severely infected; she had rejected the corneal transplant. According to her doctors, another operation would only have a 10 percent chance of success. "The problem was that she had not been given medicine continuously, so she rejected the cornea," says Julia Florescio, Children's Home manager. Her records were sent to doctors at the Jules Stein Eye Institute in Los Angeles for a second opinion, and the doctors concurred with the previous findings. The parents of Annalyn have since relinquished their parental rights to Bantay Bata 163.

Smart for her age, Annalyn can charm young and old visitors, who like to hug her. Her caregivers have been seen holding back their tears whenever Annalyn asks in Pilipino: "Why is it dark? Why are the lights turned off?" And when they answer, "You can't see yet," she falls silent – and after a while adds, "Not yet, but I'm praying to Papa Jesus that I will see soon."

In spite of her handicap, Annalyn now goes to a special school and always maintains a bright disposition. She's in search of foster parents willing to share their love and resources to care for a blind child, and maybe, later on, an adoptive family that will give her a permanent home.

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AMOUNT OF PREMIUMS

AGE	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually	Monthly	Annually
20-35	P 203.80	2,308.00	305.70	3,462.00	407.60	4,616.00	509.50	5,770.00	1,019.00	11,540.00	1,528.50	17,310.00	2,038.00	23,080.00
36-39	243.80	2,760.00	365.70	4,140.00	487.60	5,520.00	609.50	6,900.00	1,219.00	13,800.00	1,828.50	20,700.00	2,438.00	27,600.00
40-43	303.80	3,440.00	455.70	5,160.00	607.60	6,880.00	759.50	8,600.00	1,519.00	17,200.00	2,278.50	25,800.00	3,038.00	34,400.00
44-47	387.80	4,392.00	581.70	6,588.00	775.60	8,784.00	959.50	10,980.00	1,939.00	21,960.00	2,908.50	32,940.00	3,878.00	43,920.00
48-50	463.80	5,248.00	695.70	7,872.00	927.60	10,496.00	1,159.50	13,120.00	2,319.00	26,240.00	3,478.50	39,360.00	4,638.00	52,480.00
51-53	555.80	6,288.00	833.70	9.432.00	1,111.60	12,576.00	1,389.50	15,720.00	2,779.00	31,440.00	4,168.50	47,160.00	5,558.00	62,880.00
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The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

The Presence of Absence, The Absence of Presence

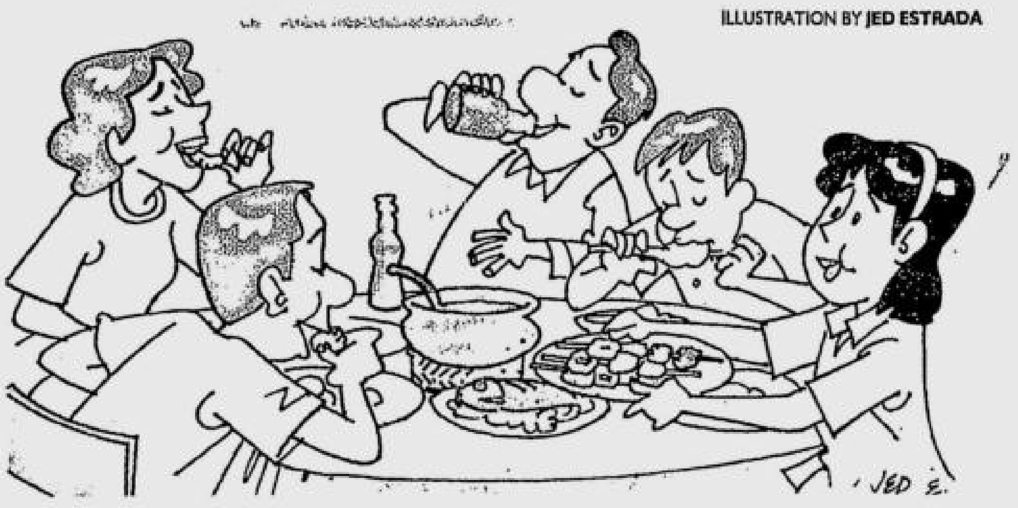

ILLUSTRATION BY JED ESTRADA

NEW YORK—As they say, absence makes the heart grow fonder. Having last paid a visit to *La Patria Adorada* almost four years ago, my sense of absence was quite keen, and so I looked forward to touching native soil once again—an essential ritual to keep alive the sense of being rooted in a particular place and time, marked by characteristics found nowhere else; in a word, of having a certain history.

In New York, one is constantly reinventing oneself, or is tempted to. This option can be wonderful (think of the Philippines reinventing itself as an actual, flourishing democracy, with Imelda Marcos in jail, the army disdaining coup attempts, and a populace voting on issues rather than for intellectually challenged basketball and movie personalities), but it can also be tiring. One needs to be grounded in a context larger than oneself.

To be back with friends I had grown up or gone to college with, with family members and relatives I hadn't seen in the interim, is balm for the weary, cynical soul. And naturally the process of reacquaintance, of get-togethers, is not quite the same without the obligatory foodfest, where eating and drinking turn into a serious, upset-stomach-inducing affair. (Someone once remarked that Pinoys are Hobbits in disguise. Not only are we short but we like to eat six times a day. Disturbing, of course, when you think of all the Filipinos who barely have enough to survive from one day to the next.)

I'm not complaining. Absence from eating Filipino fare in a Filipino context was certainly something I intended to remedy. Sure, one can eat *adobo* and *pansit Malabon* in Queens, or on East 14th Street in Manhattan, but eating the same fare in the archipelago renders the food, though perhaps identical in taste, altogether different. For if taste influences our environment, it is equally true to say the environment – from the state of the soil to that of the nation—influences our taste. I swear a plate of pasta with marinara sauce and chicken *galantina* never tasted as delicious as during a dinner with a klatch of fellow writers, editors and journalists in Krip Yuson's oasis of a garden. The conversation flowed over a miscellany of topics, from the ridiculous to the divine with equal ease, larded with all sorts of wisecracks and obscene jokes, Pinoy style.

> ***Someone once remarked that Pinoys are Hobbits in disguise. Not only are we short but we like to eat six times a day. Disturbing, of course, when you think of all the Filipinos who barely have enough to survive from one day to the next***

The same was true of a college reunion. Part of the delight lay in identifying classmates I hadn't seen in decades – no doubt some were just as puzzled by my appearance as I by theirs—some lives mirroring others, others having taken off in unexpected tangents. To be in the midst of gabfests, with companions you don't have to explain your context to, indulging in *tsismis* on politics, people's personal lives, and the arts, renders the juicy tidbits, whether audible or edible, equally tasty. Of course, liberal amounts of wine, beer, and whiskey help.

Ascribe it to nostalgia if you must but I didn't have a single bad meal during my three-week sojourn. True, some meals were ordinary but most were delightful experiences. Such as the simple but elegant lunch I had at Ernest Santiago's home cum café cum restaurant in Pagsanjan, accompanied by the literary critic and gracious doyenne of Philippine cuisine Doreen Fernandez. This time, conversation ranged from what friends in academe both in the archipelago and abroad were up to, to theater and the state of old homes in this venerable town. The drive back to Manila – a city, it seems, bent on devouring its history, if the mayor has his way – was capped by the purchase of piping hot *buko* pie and that Laguna snack of my childhood, *espasol*.

As it does every time I visit, and given the tastiness of our foods and the variety of available snacks, I wonder at the popularity of fastfood outlets, a presence I lament and whose absence I therefore devoutly wish for. Of course, there are absences that make the heart grow sadder. The absence was more marked this time, of green from the ever-widening sprawl of metropolitan Manila. I couldn't help but notice how the stretch between Makati and Alabang, along the South Superhighway once characterized by verdant rice fields, is now occupied by subdivisions and shanty towns, whose residents have lives marked by absences more properly termed deprivations, whether in terms of food or political rights. The lack of one implies the lack of the other. Give a person food, or the skill with which to get food, and you give that person a political voice—the enduring struggle of contemporary Philippines, and most of the Third World.

(To be continued)

The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Power Made Perfect in Weakness

(A Meditation on Luke 4:16-30)

WHENEVER I read a story in the Bible, I ask myself two questions: 1. Does the story have a happy ending? 2. Does it have some good news for me?

In the story I just read today about the rejection of Jesus at Nazareth (Lk. 4:16-30; Mt. 13:53-58; Mk. 6:1-6), the title itself implies a sad ending. Jesus was rejected in his hometown, and he left, never to return.

Yes, the story began on a happy note. The little town of Nazareth was celebrating the homecoming of Jesus after a long working ministry in the city. Now he was coming home as a celebrity preacher and wonder worker, and the whole village was proud of him. But when Jesus preached in the synagogue about the coming Messiah and his kingdom, the villagers could not accept that Jesus, an ordinary son of a carpenter, might be that promised Messiah. To the local villagers, the Messiah must be rich, powerful and spectacular. The Messiah must come riding in a glorious chariot accompanied by a mighty army in battle array. The Messiah must go to war, destroy his enemies, sit on a throne and live in a palace.

But here was Jesus preaching the exact opposite. He was preaching not about being rich, powerful and spectacular, not about going to war, not about vengeance, violence and death. Instead, Jesus was speaking about life, about "preaching" the good news to the "poor," about preaching out to the blind, the captives and the oppressed, about compassion, humility, forgiveness and deliverance from all types of bondage, about truth, justice and peace.

Jesus was teaching not about being big and extraordinary but about being humble and ordinary; not about being strong and worldly-wise but about being weak, dependent on God and being faithful to God.

But the experience of being weak seems to open us to temptation. For when we are weak and unproductive, we ask God for help, and when no help comes, we feel abandoned, and

To page 7

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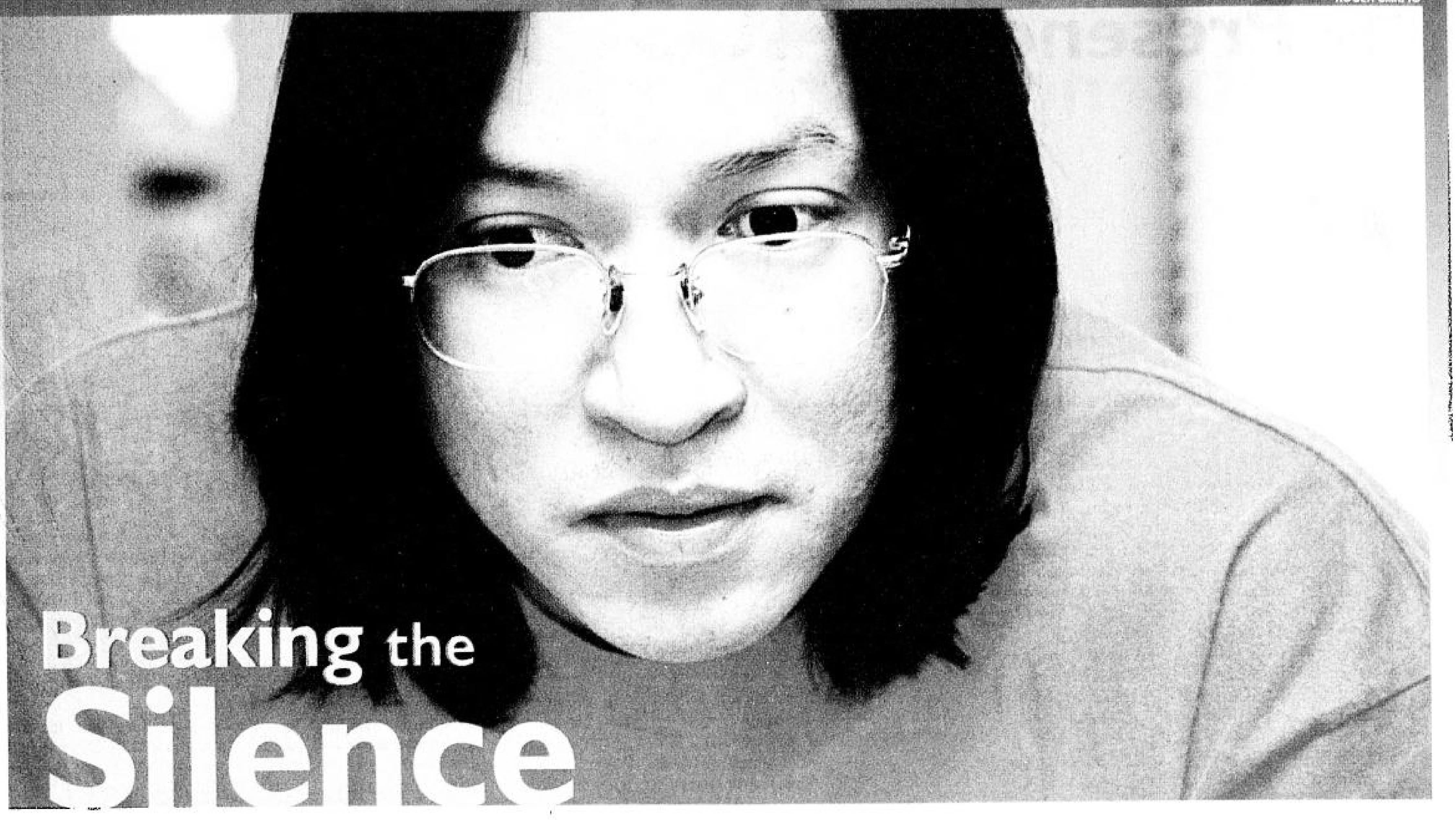
Survivors' Tales

By Eric S. Caruncho



ROGER CARPIO

Breaking the Silence

The truth shall set us free: Unlike Garcia (above), other survivors and torturers have remained in denial

Former NPA rebel Bobby Garcia had to write about the past to come to terms with it – a past that included a virulent purge of suspected military agents from within the ranks of the Left underground. Today, survivors are still struggling with the aftermath

THE revolution eats its young.

This usually happens after it takes power. In the struggle for ultimate control over the revolution's future course, former comrades turn on each other like participants in a "Survivor" episode, drumming the unfit out of the tribe.

But during the latter years of the 1980s, the Philippine communist underground was gripped by a kind of madness that went far beyond the exigencies of survival.

It began in one guerrilla base, with a few lurking suspicions that the movement had been infiltrated by DPAs (deep penetration agents). A few suspects were rounded up, subjected to intense interrogation, and eventually tortured into confessing and naming other supposed DPAs. But as more and more names were spilled — many of them seemingly dedicated cadres committed to the cause — the paranoia within the movement grew. Soon, in a grotesque mirror image of the anti-communist witch hunts of the 1950s, hysterical rebels were seeing DPAs under their jungle hammocks. The party leadership declared a mass campaign against infiltrators, and within months the contagion had spread to nearly every guerrilla zone in the country.

By the time the madness had spent itself, in the beginning of the '90s, hundreds had been imprisoned and tortured, and hundreds more were executed, many of them buried in mass graves.

The party admitted its "errors" even as the first "killing fields" were unearthed and the first stories about the horror reached the media. But the Communist Party was soon ripped apart by the acrimonious "reaffirm/reject" debate, and the matter of the purges was eclipsed even as the survivors struggled to resume normal lives.

The whole story of the purges may never be told, and until then the movement may never fully come to terms with what happened. But perhaps the first steps toward healing have begun.

Last December, Anvil published "To Suffer Thy Comrades: How The Revolution Decimated Its Own," the first book on the subject written from a survivor's point of view. The fact that it took the author, Robert Francis "Bobby" Garcia, more than a decade to tell his tale suggests how difficult it is to break the silence.

"Some friends ask me why I had to write this book at all," says Garcia, who works for the Institute for Popular Democracy, a non-government organization. "I did it to satisfy two needs: my own need to understand, and society's need to know. The movement failed to satisfy either of them. My own quest for understanding had never been easy. The so-called 'objectivity' and detachment that normally attend other research undertakings were absent in this case. This is so because I was part of the phenomenon I tried to investigate. It had been enormously difficult because silence has its own way of insisting itself. But for me, it proved to be even harder to shut up and let bygones be bygones."

In 1988, Garcia decided to drop out of UP Los Baños, where he had been a zoology student, to work for the revolutionary underground full time. He had been a student activist and vice chairman of the student council, but eventually classes were just a pretext for organizing the youth sector, so Garcia headed for the hills. He was only 21 years old.

"I joined a fighting unit," he relates. "Morale was high, the guerrilla formations were strong, relations with the masses were good. Life in the *sona* (guerrilla zone) was very difficult, but despite that, we were happy."

In November 1988, along with other cadres, Garcia was encamped in the Sierra Madre in Quezon, but something was clearly amiss. The center of the camp was declared off limits to all but the members of a special task force assigned to deal with the infiltration problem. At night, they could hear strange human cries issuing from the place.

"We could feel the paranoia, the fear," he recalls.

Finally, Garcia himself was sent for. He was told that it was just a routine questioning for "clarifications." Then he was bound and blindfolded, and the ordeal began.

For a month, he was kept bound and was slapped, kicked, beaten, kept alive on a spoonful of rice a day. He was questioned day and night, until there was no recourse but to make up a story and confess to being a military spy, just to end the torture. Then, just as suddenly as it began, it was over. Garcia was released, and eventually sent home.

As it turned out, he was one of the lucky ones. Just how lucky he would only find out after he was freed and was able to meet other survivors and hear their stories.

THE fear of infiltration had long been endemic to the underground. In 1983, the Melito Glor Command had even issued a document titled "Lessons From the Infiltration Incident in the Quezon-Bicol Zone". This served as the party's guideline in rooting out suspected DPAs. By far the most intensive campaign – Kampanyang Ahos — was conducted in 1985 in Mindanao. But in 1988, the party leadership declared a nationwide purge, code named Oplan Olympia.

The horror that ensued was difficult to apprehend, because it appeared totally irrational. Hardworking, dedicated revolutionaries were suddenly suspected of being hardworking and dedicated to cover up their real identities as government spies. One interrogator who balked at torturing comrades came under suspicion himself because of his kindness, and was eventually executed as a DPA. Normally gentle peasants violently beat detainees lest they too draw suspicion. One by one, the prisoners cracked, inventing new identities as army intelligence officers to stop the beatings, and feeding the task force even more names. Those who confessed were promised "rehabilitation," but it soon became obvious what that meant.

Garcia would later write: "The *pen-pen*, a popular folk jingle for kids, was adopted by the executioners as a grotesquely playful method of picking the next candidate to the grave, *a la* eenie-meenie-miny-moe. Furthermore, it was used as a deceptive device to create a semblance of luck- or chance-based survival, whereas the fact was that the victims to be killed had already been predetermined. What this merely showed was that even the meting out of a death sentence was elaborately staged and took the form of a sick parody, a death ritual reminiscent of William Golding's imagined world in 'Lord of the Flies'."

Another survivor told Garcia the following chilling tale:

"At the *pen-pen* site, some were killed and some were spared - the latter brought there for the desired terror effect. We were all asked to say our last words. Almost all said, 'Don't let our parents know that our comrades did this to us.' One of us was quite combative. He spit on the guards and tried to kick them. His neck took the first knife. I was brought to the *pen-pen* session more than once and was thus witness to a variety of ways of killing human beings. They forced us to look. One was strangled from behind using what they called the 'marine hold'. At one time I looked away—I just heard the victim scream like a pig being butchered. He struggled for air. He was kicked in the face. His color had already darkened but he was still alive. His last words were: *"Maglagom kayo, mga kasama!"* ("Comrades, learn your history!") He was stabbed and his blood was smeared on my face."

Garcia and 54 other cadres survived "Oplan Missing Link" - the code name for the purge in the Southern Tagalog region. Sixty-six others were buried in the jungle. In one final, bitter irony, all of them were cleared in a subsequent review. The earlier campaign in Mindanao, Kampanyang Ahos, was far more virulent; one study estimates that as many as 600 to 900 were executed.

HOW could it have happened?

In his book, Garcia offers a few possible explanations, drawing on similar events in history such as the Spanish Inquisition and the Nazi Holocaust.

"A clandestine organization is vulnerable to paranoia," he says. "It is one of the givens. I have seen first hand how paranoia can be contagious. It is a compelling force that inevitably infects everyone. Even before we were bound we could feel the paranoia. I have also seen first hand how cruelty and atrocity can be infectious in the perpetrators. I'm thankful I wasn't part of that unit, because I don't know how I would have acted. Normally well-behaved, shy people were suddenly compelled to acts of cruelty against their comrades."

Whether there were actual deep penetration agents within the movement may never be known – the inquisition was flawed from the start. The use of torture to obtain confessions contaminated the results.

"The purge began to snowball with the arrest of a few individuals," says Garcia. "Torture led to a domino effect: the more they interrogated, the bigger they thought the extent of infiltration was." It became a vicious cycle: torture led to more suspects to torture, leading to even more names until virtually everyone was under suspicion.

"Eventually, no one felt safe – not even the interrogators, not even high-ranking party officials from whose ranks many victims came. It was just a matter of who gets implicated next. A blanket of paranoia engulfed the whole camp – a morbid fear that one's company might be one's enemy, and a far worse fear that one might be suspected *the* enemy."

More than a decade later, survivors are still struggling with the aftermath, and still find it difficult to talk about their ordeal.

"It's still a very sensitive topic," admits Garcia. "If it had been a military atrocity, it would have been easy to write about it. People would readily talk about it."

Many still in the movement questioned why Garcia had to open the closet to reveal the skeletons. It could only give the "enemy" more ammunition to use against the Left, they argue.

"In her column, Ceres Doyo gave a good analogy," says Garcia. "It's like incest: Something bad happens within the family, but you don't just talk about it because it involves family, loved ones, people you were close to and trusted with your lives. People who still have close affinities with the movement don't want to reveal the ugly side of a cause they were committed to. They think that the movement has changed, it has assessed its actions and seen its errors, and it's no longer necessary to let the public know what happened."

He disagrees with this viewpoint.

"You need to have public awareness before you can have closure. I have talked to many victims and perpetrators alike who have had only superficial closure. On the part of the victims, the trauma still manifests in various forms - nightmares, sudden rages. There are deep psychological wounds that won't heal until there is psychological closure."

But that is easier said than done. Garcia had never told his family about what he had endured – his parents only found out when they read the book. Of all the survivors that Garcia interviewed, not one had told their families what had happened to them.

Many on the other side - those who had tortured and killed their comrades - are racked with guilt. Many still refuse to even think about it, staying in denial.

"I have always held that the movement would come out better and stronger if it would face up to these events in history and undertake a sincere process of reparation and rectification that involves the public, the very people they supposedly serve," says Garcia. "Truth revealed is dangerous in the hands of the wrong people. But it is a hundred times more dangerous if truth is not revealed at all. Nothing is more dangerous than being able to commit atrocious acts without having to account for it."

This Week

Art

Peace Thru Art in the Palindrome Year, 30 artworks by veteran and promising artists featuring various subjects in acrylic, oil, watercolor and mixed media at the 3/F of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall until Feb. 20.

Nature's Symphony, a solo exhibit by Camille de la Rosa at Gallery 828, Level 6, Shangri-La Plaza Mall until Feb. 21.

Alliance Francaise de Manille presents ***Le plus beau jour de ma jeunesse,*** 21 works by Bernard Faucon, until Feb. 27 at Alliance Francaise's Totalfinaelf Gallery. For details, call 895-7585.

Subjectiv Fotografie, German photography exhibit courtesy of the Goethe Institut until Feb. 24 at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, Roxas Boulevard.

Daong, an exhibit using coffee as a medium by Mark Justiniani at Starbucks 6750 until the third week of the month.

Links, a solo exhibit by Monica Laurel Delgado until Feb. 24 at Finale Art Gallery, SM Megamall A, Level 4.

Stain-Less, an exhibit of functional art pieces in the form of musical instruments, at the Drawing Room, Metrostar Building, 1007 Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City until Feb. 27.

February Affair, a suite of flower paintings by Chris Mirang until Feb. 25 at Gallery Genesis, 4/F SM Megamall A.

Crafting Economies, an exhibit that brings together carvers, sculptors, painters, carpenters, clay, installation, performance and sound artists featuring Mark Maestro, Wire Rommel Tuazon, the Paloy Cagayat Woodcarving Workshop in collaboration with Mike Muñoz, Yoshiki Futana in collaboration with Alfredo and Isabel Aquilizan, Hiroshi Kitao and Rogue's Gallery's Yasuhiko Hamachi and Yukihisa Nakase, until March 17 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Music

The **27th International Bamboo Organ Festival** opens at the Las Piñas Church on Feb. 22 until March 1. The week-long festival will feature both Filipino and foreign artists performing a varied repertoire of local and Western music. For details, call 826-1856.

For the opening event of the annual Philippines-Japan Festival, the Japan Foundation presents **Violin Kaleidoscope** featuring violinist Junko Ohtsu, pianist Masahiko Sato and percussionist Kei Wada on Feb. 20, 7 p.m. at the St. Cecilia's Hall, St. Scholastica's College, Leon Guinto St., Manila. For details, call 811-6155 to 58.

Cinema

The third annual **pelikuLetrAn Student Short Film Festival** will feature 12 short films produced by the Introduction to Video Filmmaking Batch 2002 of the Communication Arts Department on Feb. 18-22 at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Intramuros, Manila. For inquiries, email evansyonson@hotmail.com.

Independent filmmakers will be celebrated in the ***Pelikula at Lipunan* 2002,** the annual Filipino film festival sponsored by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and Mowelfund Film Institute until Feb. 19 at SM Megamall. The festival will move to Iloilo on Feb. 20-23, SM Pampanga on March 1-2 and in Baguio on March 8-9. For inquiries, call 727-1915.

LVN stars pay **tribute to Nida Blanca** in the *Pelikula at Lipunan* film festival today at SM Megamall cinema that includes a grand display of Blanca memorabilia. Three Nida classics to be shown are "*Magdusa Ka,*" "John & Marsha" and "*Waray-Waray.*"

Atbp

The first Edsa Revolution will be celebrated through the **Catholic Journalism Forum-Seminar** on Feb. 25 at the UST Research Complex, España, Manila. The speakers will tackle the concepts, practices and applications of Catholic Journalism in the country, its use as a tool to promote the Christian message, and its role in the mission of the Philippine Church. Registration ongoing until Feb. 22. For inquiries, call 733-1922.

Eye of the Filipino, an on-the-spot collaborative and interactive mural painting open to students of elementary, secondary and college level from both public and private schools in Metro Manila on Feb. 28, 9 a.m. at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. Each school can send one delegate to have a chance to qualify in the collaborative painting. There will be 75 qualified student to join with 25 professional artists. For inquiries, call 523-7855.

A three-day workshop on **Transformative Path through Charcoal and Color Painting** will be held on Feb. 22-24 at the Titus Brandsma Center, Cubao. The workshop explores the healing power of art and spirituality in painting. For reservations, call 434-5381.

Putting up a Daycare/Preschool seminar will be held on Feb. 22 and 23 at the ACCM Building, 102 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Seminar fee is P8,500 inclusive of lunch, snacks, certificate and handouts, and one month sample preschool curriculum. For details, call 823-2615.

Learn the **basics of computer assembling**, hardware configuration, installation of software, troubleshooting and upgrading on Feb. 24, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F COD Building, Cubao. For details, call 417-1521.

INAM Philippines will hold a series of **seminar on Health and Healing** under Sifu Rene Navarro, Dipl.Ac. from the US teaching Tai Chi: Chi Kung 13 Movements on Feb. 22 and March 1, Microcosmic Orbit, Inner Smile, 6 Healing Sounds on Feb. 23, Heaven and Earth/Dao Yin Qi Gong on Feb. 24, and Chi Nei Tsang Internal Organ Massage on March 2 and 3. For inquiries, call 926-3356, 926-4810 or email us at atrc@nsclub.net or inam@nsclub.net.

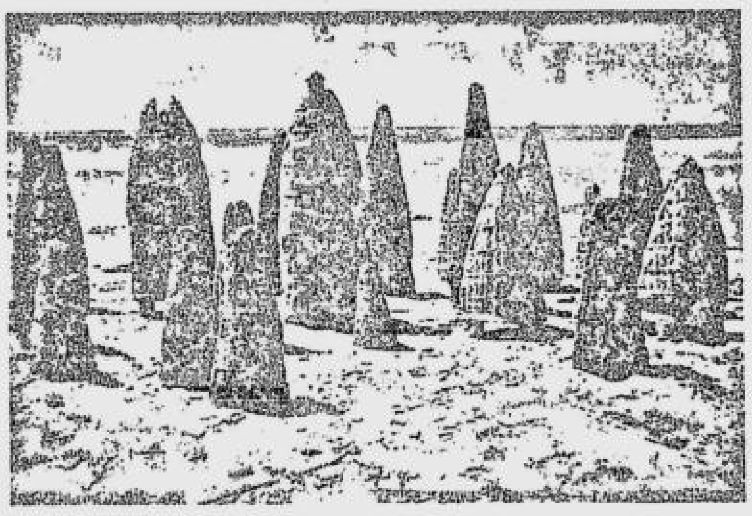
The first series of the **basic photography workshops** under the auspices of the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc. and Fujifilm will be held at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila on March 3 and will run for four consecutive Sundays. For details, call 813-7420.

The Philippine Society of Youth Science Clubs Inc. invites high school students to join the **National Youth Science, Technology and Environment Summer Camp** on April 10-16 at UP Diliman with the theme "Engineering the Future." There will be lectures, workshops, field trip, booth fair, sportsfest and many more. For registration, call 920-8174 and 920-9561.

The **Paco Catholic School Alumni Batch 85** will hold a general meeting on Feb. 23, 2 p.m. at PCS Alumni Office at Cardinal Sin Building. For inquiries, call Raymond Tirso Gutierrez at 0917-9602549, Hilda Luna (0917-7533580) or Brenda Rivera-Cinco (0919-3254569.

For this week's bands and schedules pls. call

- **Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)**
- **Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)**
- **'70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)**
- **Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)**
- **Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)**



"*Familia*" by Mark Maestro, participating artist in "Crafting Economies" at the CCP

X-manila

The **Domkantorei Graz,** an Austrian Chamber Choir, and the Manila Symphony Orchestra will hold a concert on Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. at the San Sebastian Cathedral, Lipa City for the benefit of the San Sebastian Cathedral Pipe Organ repair and refurbishment. For tickets, call (043) 981-1160.

Nila Claravall-Gonzalez presents William Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream,** a fusion of classical ballet and theater. Feb. 20, March 1 and 2 (with matinees and galas) at San Jose Auditorium, Iloilo City. Choreography by Sol Fernandez and directed by Kevin Piamonte. For tickets, call (033) 3363793 or (033) 3202402.

A **Southern Mindanao Choreographers Forum and Workshop** organized by the National Commission for Culture and the Arts through the Kahayag Community Dance and Theater Company in cooperation with the provincial government of South Cotabato, will be held on Feb. 20-24, SPDA Compound, Koronadal City, South Cotabato. For details, call (083) 2283 447 or email <kahayag@philwebinc.com>.

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

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...from page 5

we give up. That is the temptation.

Let's say you ask God for help and no help comes. Yet, in our weakness and our failure, we still refuse to give up, and we find ourselves instead still clinging on, still hoping, still praying, still loving, still serving, still faithful and believing, then we know that God is present and at work. "My power," He says, "is made perfect in your weakness." God needs neither our success nor our strength and arrogance. St. Paul said: "Gladly will I boast of my weakness so that the power of God may be fully manifest in me."

The power of God indeed was fully manifest in Jesus, in his weakness, when he left Nazareth feeling rejected by his own. But he was not the loser at Nazareth. He walked away a conqueror.

The lives of the saints are all stories about weakness and about the power and victory of God. Every story ended this way: "And they lived happily ever after!"

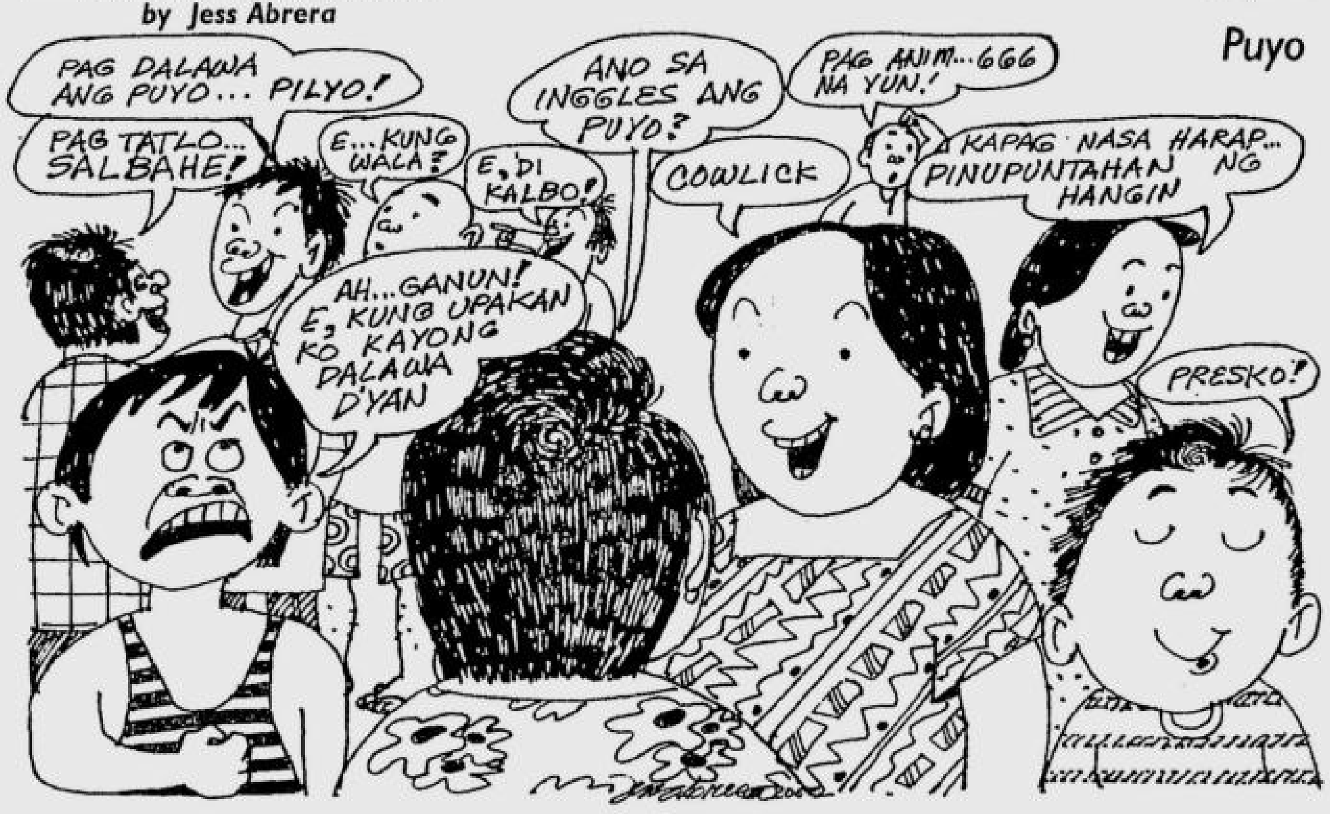
Calendar: Today is the first Sunday in Lent. After the fifth Sunday (March 17) is Palm Sunday (March 24), and then, it's Holy Week (March 25-31). Easter Sunday is March 31.

From March 24 (second Sunday in Lent), I will start a series of five Lenten Points for Meditation during the Liturgy of the Word, 8:15 a.m. here at our Center on 103 Cordillera St., SMH, Quezon City. Our Center will be open for the Sacrament of Reconciliation daily during Lent, 9-11 a.m. and from 4-7 p.m. Our Lenten Sunday Masses here at our Center start at 8:15 in the morning. Our breakfast after Mass is strictly a one solid-one liquid "repast-for-peace."

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Puyo


PAG DALAWA ANG PUYO... PILYO!
PAG TATLO... SALBAHE!
E...KUNG WALA?
E, DI KALBO!
ANO SA INGGLES ANG PUYO?
COWLICK
PAG ANIM...666 NA YUN!
KAPAG NASA HARAP... PINUPUNTAHAN NG HANGIN
AH...GANUN! E, KUNG UPAKAN KO KAYONG DALAWA D'YAN
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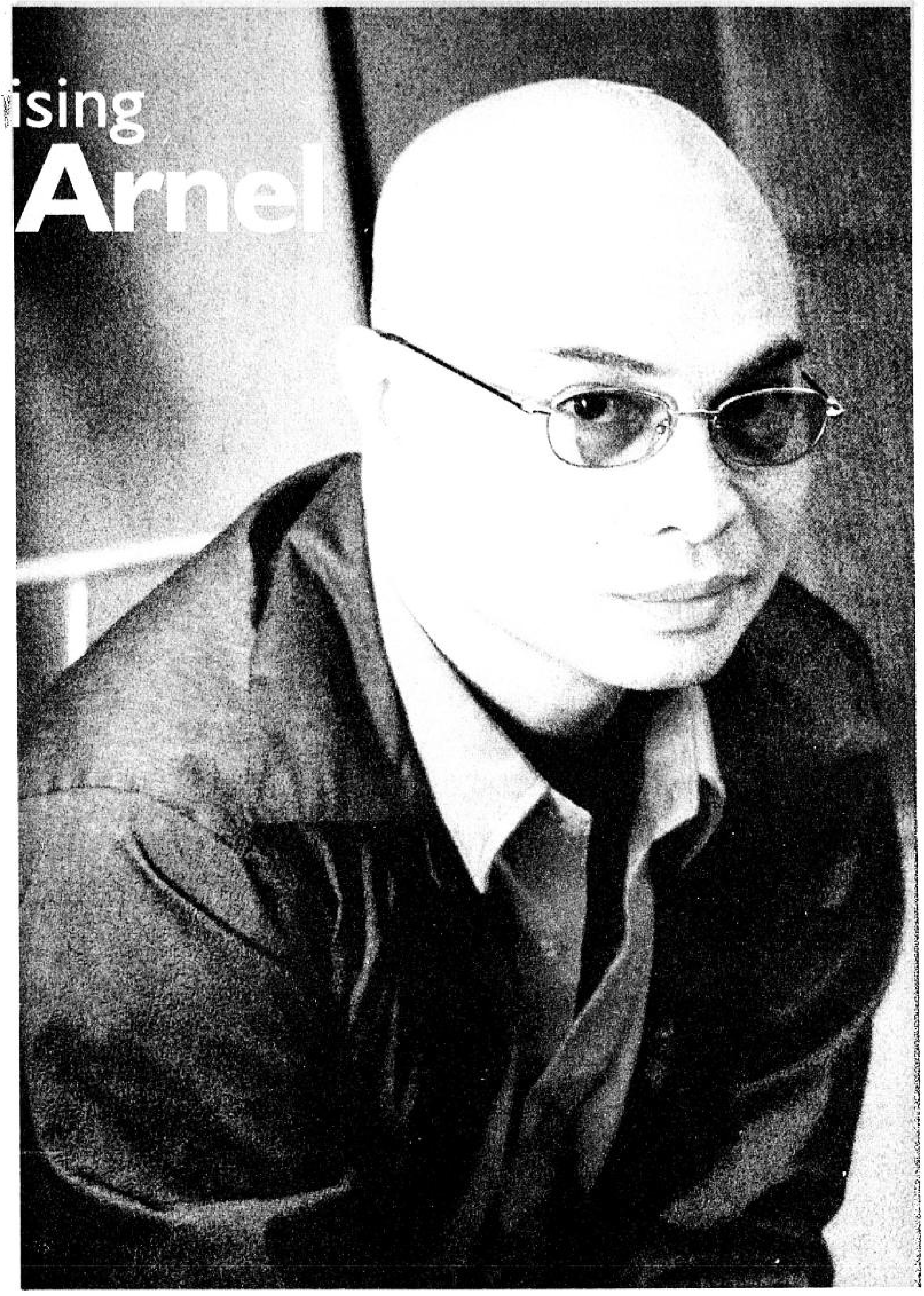
MEMBER PANA Truth in Advertising

Celebrities

By Ansel Beluso

Photographs by Mike Alquinto

Uncompromising Arnel



HE flew to Dublin, Ireland just days after his latest show, "K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge" hit the tube. One would think Arnel Ignacio would hang around, if only to find out how this latest millionaire maker would fare in the highly competitive world of TV game shows.

"I'll be gone for only two weeks," says Arnel, a bowl of *ginatan* idling before him as he concentrated on the serious business of daubing on make-up inside the GMA canteen. Was he rushing off to a show after the interview? He shrugs and grins, *"Wala lang, gusto ko lang mag-*make-up." And he lets go of his trademark laughter.

Yup, the guy has a mind of his own. Some might even call him impulsive. With no need for rhyme or reason, Arnel goes ahead and does what he feels like doing at the moment. Right now, his bald pate becomes another bold declaration: No more synthetic hair for him. "I got tired of taking care of it," he says nonchalantly of his erstwhile mane.

The trip to Ireland is another seemingly impulsive move. No, he had no concert, no special show for overseas Pinoys or anything. He just wanted to visit a friend, he admits. "I guess I want to get away from it all," he shrugs.

Not that he needed a breather. It's been half a year since he was last seen on TV – in the unlamented "Kiss *Muna*," where he played the forgettable role of a gay busybody.

When pressed, Arnel reluctantly confesses, "I'm toying with the idea of transferring my family abroad. Ireland is just one of the possibilities. I also plan to go to Australia, New Zealand and Canada to explore my options, but there's nothing definite yet."

That may sound like the familiar refrain of upwardly mobile Filipinos who have gotten fed up with the traffic, the garbage, the drugs, the kidnappings, the politics and other local malaise and have decided to pack up, but there's something more to it than that, says Arnel.

"I don't know if it's me or it's them. I've stopped asking," he sighs, referring to his family. "I'm almost always misunderstood here. My dad couldn't understand why I wanted to be an entertainer and not a banker like him. Why I chose something so unstable was beyond him. My wife couldn't understand my sexuality. I myself can't put a label on my gender. The people I worked with couldn't understand my work ethic. I have a very low threshold for mediocrity. This makes me a square peg in a round hole."

Being misunderstood is the story of his life, says Arnel, although he and the people who matter in his life have learned to come to terms with it, he adds. Take his wife, for example.

"Frannie and I separated for two years. Coming as we did from two vastly different worlds, we were headed for separation long before the magic faded," recounts this TV host. "I couldn't understand why she couldn't understand me. One day, I told her, 'We need to talk. We have a problem. I'm in love with Alvin.' She cried. A lot of other things piled up and she packed and left."

They became better friends after that, he recalls, until Arnel suggested that she manage Arnelli's Pizza. "I put up that business for her and the kids so it was just right that she took care of it," he explains. With Arnelli's main office in Arnel's house, however, Frannie became a regular guest, and it was inevitable that she would one day discover that another woman was keeping her husband's bed warm.

"She cried," recounts Arnel. "She told me she was offended, which I couldn't understand because we'd been separated for quite a while then. And in fact she herself was already entertaining some suitors, which didn't offend me."

But Frannie's tears were enough for Arnel to let the woman go, and to suggest to his family that they come back home to him. It's been two years.

"I felt it was the correct thing to do," he says. Since then, he adds, their relationship has become more stable. "Frannie and I have become more connected. We sold Arnelli's and she's my business manager now. This gives her the chance to share my life more fully, unlike before when she practically had nothing to do with my career. This new show, 'K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge,' is the first contract she wrapped up for me, and I'm very happy about it."

A sleek new look, a hot new TV show, a rejuvenated family life – comedian and TV host Arnel Ignacio is on a roll. He owes it to a straightforward manner and a strict work ethic – attributes that are unfortunately often misunderstood, he reveals, in the world of Pinoy showbiz

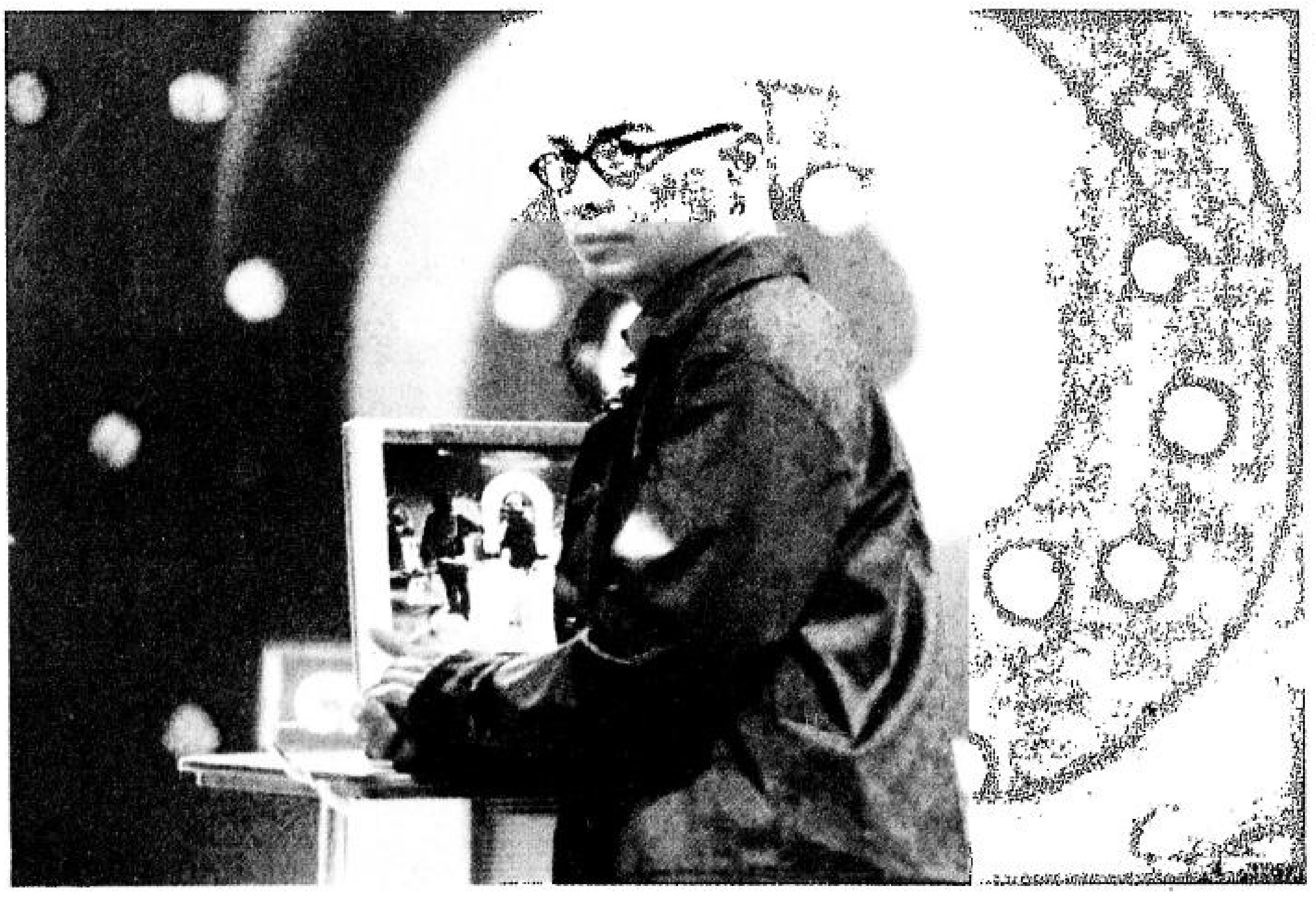
Aside from being a happy husband to Frannie, Arnel is also a happy father to their three kids – two (Dada, 16, and Bea, 14) from Frannie's previous relationship, and the youngest (Pie, 5), their very own. While he wasn't exactly popular with his in-laws before, Arnel is now sorely missed whenever he can't attend family get-togethers.

"I guess, I've mellowed a lot," he concedes. "I've become more giving and forgiving. And more appreciative of my wife and children."

Unfortunately, the same attitude does not extend to other people. "I have no patience for those to whom sense is uncommon. And I have a special vocabulary for the utterly stupid," he says, rattling off a few examples. "A guest coordinator calls me to ask if I can appear on their talk show. I agree. He proceeds to ask me the most basic questions about me. I mean, in the first place, if you want me, you must at least already know the basic things about me. In the second place, if you don't know anything about me, you must at least have already done some research before calling me up.

"Or, there's this writer who resented my asking if my character in a sitcom could be made consistent to be funnier and more credible. His response was, why do I bother when the role is too small? But that's just it. It's too small, why not make the most of it?

"Here in GMA, this has become a big joke. Some executive producers ask me to interview applicants for production assistant or talent coordinator. I can easily terrorize those who don't have what it takes and make them find their place in the sun elsewhere."



Arnel's all set for what comes next

Arnel's problem, if one can call it that, is his uncompromising belief in the value of excellence. "Nobody should have the right to do anything that he can't do well," he intoned. "Of course, they fail to understand me. They think I'm just being difficult. They tell me, I should give allowances for the inadequacies of people because I'm *mabait naman daw.* But then, if I'll be forever *mabait,* they'll be forever inadequate. It's actually to their advantage that I choose to be not *mabait."*

And Arnel revealed that, indeed, there are those who have now succeeded in life because of the left-handed motivation they got from him in the past. But, unfortunately, there are also a lot of others who simply choose to speak ill of him in whispers, as a way of nursing the pain that his tart tongue has caused them.

"There was a time that really bothered me, because I worried a lot about what other people thought of me. But now, I couldn't care less anymore. I couldn't lower my standards of excellence just to be in the good graces of other people. I refuse to contribute to making this country a nation of mediocre people."

As Arnel warmed up to the subject, he just went on and on. "What I also hate is the Filipino concept of *hiya* and *tampo.* Like, a person will come to you but won't tell you what he needs from you because he is *nahihiya.* But he expects you to guess what his miseries are and help him. If you're not able to do that for the simple reason that you're not a *manghuhula*, he will make *tampo* and it's all your fault for being *mayabang* and all.

"And there's this *barkada* thing. When a friend has a big problem, he expects you to join him in drowning his sorrows in alcohol. When somebody has wronged him, he expects you to join him rearrange the person's face. In other words, when he self-destructs, he expects you to do the same. If you don't do any of that, *wala kang pakisama.* Whew! Now, do you still wonder why I want to just go to another country and live there with my family for good?"

When we left Arnel that afternoon, he was still smearing rouge on his face. He was very good at it. And, last Sunday evening, we made it a point to watch "K! The P1,000,000 Videoke Challenge" – yet another show put up to give millions to people as an easy way of numbing their pain. Arnel was very good at it, too.

That's the reason why we couldn't really believe he'd migrate to another country.